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Beginner's Guide to Crochet

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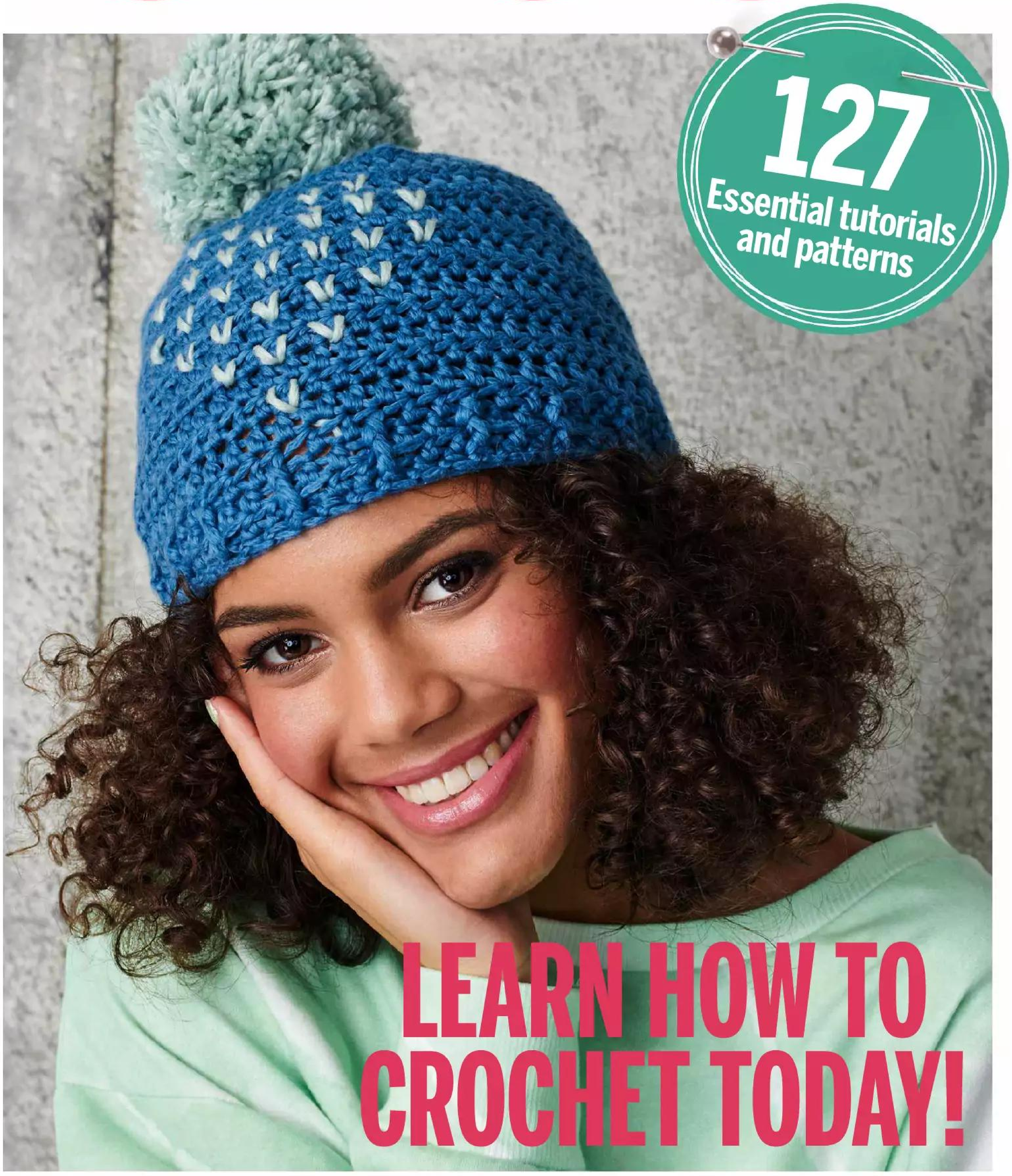

127 Essential tutorials and patterns

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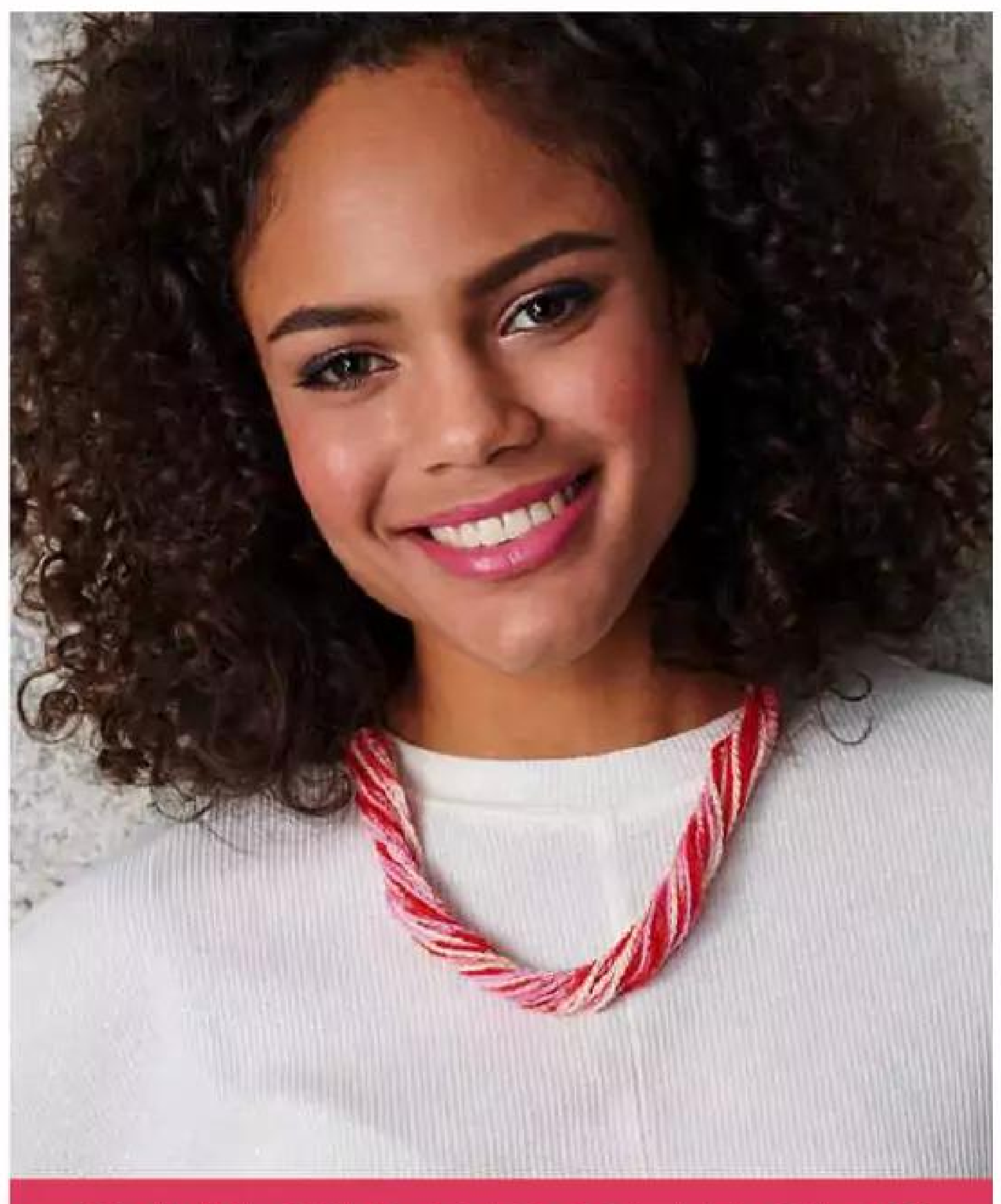

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SIMPLE STITCHES
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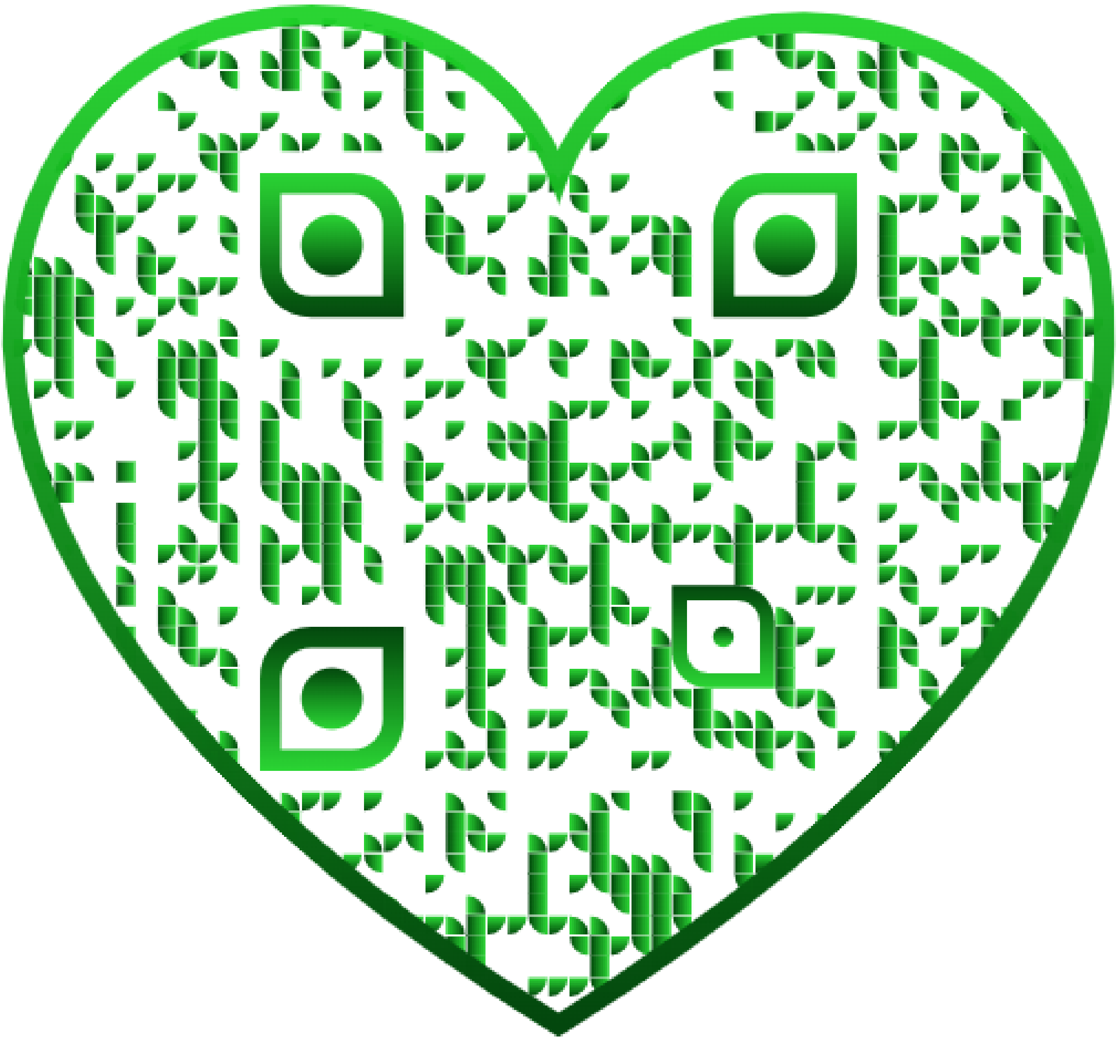

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Welcome...

...to **The Beginner's Guide to Crochet!** Whether you've never picked up a crochet hook before, or you learned to crochet long ago but haven't tried since, this book will help you to discover (or rediscover!) the basics of these wonderfully versatile crafts.

Crochet is a fantastic way to create your own accessories, as well as toys for children, stylish clothes, beautiful homewares and fab gifts for all the family. It's quick, easy and convenient: all you need is a hook and a ball of yarn! Armed with these, you can get creative wherever you are – at home, on the bus, in a café... It's no wonder many people find it addictive!

We'll walk you through every step with clear instructions and pictures, from choosing which yarn and hook you use to making some basic stitches, so you can become a confident crocheter. We also have gorgeous projects for you to make as you go along, from granny squares to accessories, to help you practise each technique.

So sit down and relax with us, while we take you into an exciting new crochet-filled world of yarn crafting!

Sara

Sara Huntington

Beginner's Guide to Crochet

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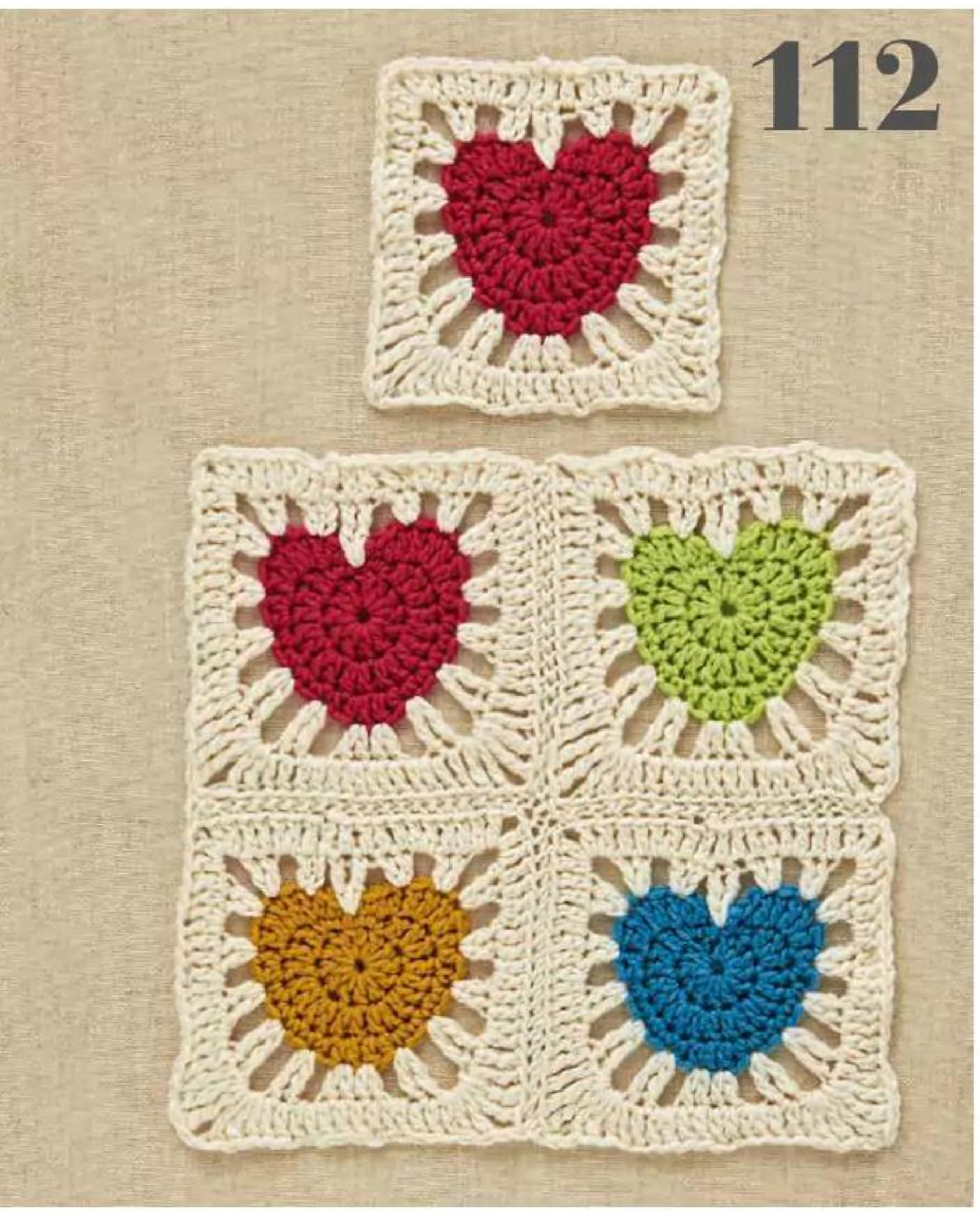
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Work a treble stitch as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through first two loops, yrh, pull through two loops). Work a treble in each stitch across the row.

In-depth guides to stitches & fabrics

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MATERIALS & TOOLS

In this chapter, we'll take you through all the equipment you need to start crocheting. There are tempting yarns, beautiful hooks, and some handy extras for your project bag…

YARNS

Discover a world of possibilities with the huge range of yarns available to buy, in many fibres and all the colours imaginable!

The world of yarn is huge, and one of the joys of crochet is using different types of yarn – there are many fibres, thicknesses, textures and colours of yarn, each one more beautiful than the next! Note that crocheters (and knitters!) call it 'yarn': the word 'wool' specifically means the fibre spun from a sheep's coat.

When it comes to deciding on the yarn you need, size does matter. Yarn comes in different weights, or thicknesses, from the finest 1ply lace to the widely-used DK yarn, up to thick super-chunky yarns. The yarn thickness will affect the look, feel and weight of your crocheted fabric. You'll always get the best results if you use the yarn quoted in a specific pattern, although as you gain confidence, you'll find it's fairly easy to substitute another yarn. It's best if you choose an alternative that's the same weight and crochet a swatch to make sure the tension is the same (more on this later). Most DK yarn, for instance, can be used in any DK pattern that uses similar fibres.

As a beginner, it's best to start with a plain wool or acrylic yarn. These are great value and perfect for practising crochet techniques. Both will cope well with being 'ripped back' or undone if you make a mistake, and their natural stretch makes them easy to use.

SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Whatever the type or texture of your yarn, it will sit within a standard range of sizes (see opposite). Traditionally, yarn weights were named after the number of strands that were plied together to create that thickness of yarn, but with modern manufacturing techniques this often isn't the case. In general, double knitting (DK) is a handy weight and works up quickly without making too thick a fabric.

> *If you're unsure about a yarn, buy a sample ball and and crochet a swatch*

Be careful not to mix different weights of yarn in a project (unless you want a novelty effect) because they work to different tensions and the finished fabric may vary in size. Just to complicate matters, yarns made in the US and UK have a different weight-labelling system (see opposite).

Another thing to watch out for when buying several balls of yarn is the dye lot. Yarn companies dye huge 'lots' of yarn at a time, and there may be slight variations between dye lots. Check the dye lot number on the yarn label and make sure all your yarn is from the same lot, or you may get colour variations in your fabric.

Some people prefer to wash their yarn before they work with it, but it isn't necessary. If you crochet a swatch though, make sure you wash it and block it before measuring (see p126-127), as this can change the size of your crochet fabric. You may see references to the 'twist' in a yarn, such as 'high twist' sock yarns. This refers to how tightly yarn plies are 'twisted' together when they're spun. If a yarn is loosely spun, it may pull apart as you work if you're not careful. Yarn with more twist is stronger and creates a denser, firmer fabric. If you're unsure, try buying a sample ball and crochet a swatch to see what type of fabric it produces. Turn over to discover different fibres you'll love!

YARN WEIGHTS

Choose the right yarn for your crochet project

Crochet threads Numbered from 3 to 100, these threads are not classed as yarns. They are specially made for fine crochet work, including lace making and filet crochet. Made from mercerised cotton, the higher the number, the finer the thread (no 10 is shown below). You may need a hook from the steel range (see p12) to work them.

Embroidery thread As well as specialist crochet threads, you can also crochet with embroidery threads, from stranded cottons to the finest silk threads.

1, 2 & 3ply Essentially one strand, or two or three strands of yarn twisted together, these are great for making delicate lace shawls and baby garments. Usually, 2ply yarn is worked with a 2-3½mm hook.

4ply This is a favourite weight for baby clothes, motifs and lightweight jumpers and cardigans.

Double Knitting (DK) So called because it's usually double the weight of 4ply, DK is the most popular yarn. It's quick to crochet with and is very versatile.

Aran Originally created for fishermen's jumpers, aran-weight wool can be used to make many accessories and garments when DK isn't heavy enough, and chunky is too bulky. Perfect for outdoor or warm clothing.

Chunky Heavier than aran, chunky wool is great for outdoor wear and winter jumpers. It's ideal for beginners as the fabric will grow quickly!

Super Chunky This weight of yarn is popular for making winter coats and jumpers. It's also good for beginners because it produces quick results. Good for furnishings.

Big Quick and easy to crochet with, big yarns are ideal for winter and making bold statements. You'll need a big hook for this yarn – up to 20mm thick. Perfect for bold scarves and coats, as well as cosy cushions and throws.

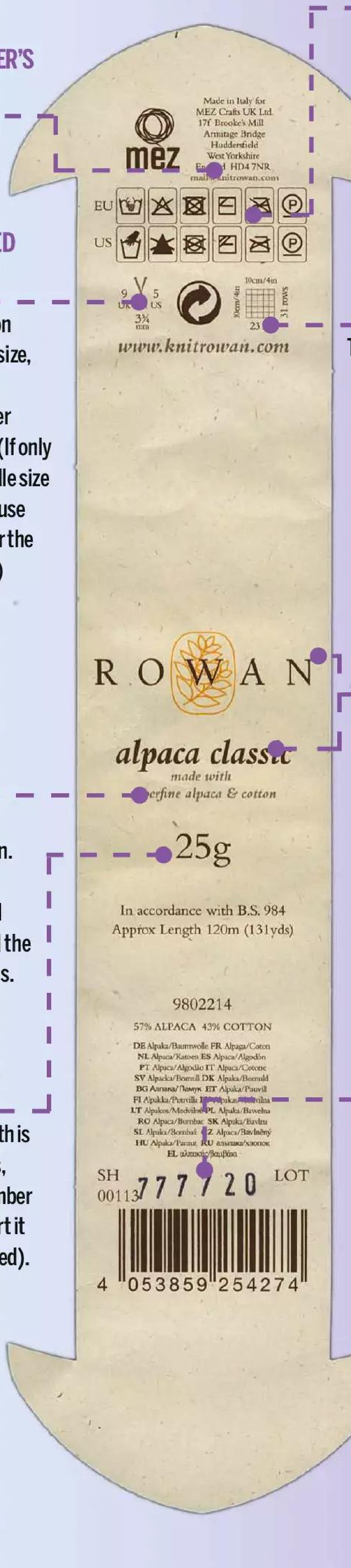
YARN WEIGHT UK/US CONVERSION

UK	US	Hook size
4ply	Fingering/Sport	3-4mm
Double knitting	Light worsted	3½-4½mm
Aran	Fisherman/Worsted	4-5½mm
Chunky	Bulky	5½-7mm
Super chunky	Extra bulky	7-12mm

YARN LABELS

How to read the ball band on your yarn

A ball band is the piece of paper wrapped around the yarn, where the manufacturers put all the information about the yarn. Have a look at the annotations below to see what it all means. It's a good idea to keep your ball bands to refer back to when you wash a garment, or if you decide to crochet the same pattern again.



MANUFACTURER'S ADDRESS

Contact details for the yarn manufacturer.

RECOMMENDED HOOK SIZE

Make your tension square with this size, but if it doesn't match, try a larger or smaller hook. (If only the knitting needle size is given, you can use this as a guide for the hook size to use.)

YARN CONTENT

The fibres that make up the yarn. This will affect the look and feel of the fabric and the care instructions.

WEIGHT AND QUANTITY

If your yarn length is shown in metres, multiply the number by 1.09 to convert it to yards (if needed).

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

In standard symbols and words. Ignore these at your peril! Give your yarn the best care to keep it looking like new.

TENSION

These numbers give you a guide as to how many stitches and rows you should work in a 4x4in (10x10cm) square.

YARN NAME AND MANUFACTURER

The front of the ball band usually has this key information.

COLOUR NAME OR NUMBER, AND DYE LOT NUMBER

Colours are usually numbered. Check all your yarn is from the same dye lot for consistent colour.

double knit
Special
by Stylecraft
rico baby
so soft
King Cole
Yummy

ACRYLIC

Acrylic is the go-to choice for many crocheters. It's cheap, comes in a huge variety of finishes and colours, and is widely available. Acrylic is not as breathable or absorbent as wool, but it's machine washable and tough, as you'll know if you've ever tried to break a strand with your hands! Pure acrylic yarn is often used for homewares, baby clothes and blankets, and rough-and-tumble children's garments, and the fibre is also added as a mixer to many of the most popular yarns available. It's perfect too for outside makes, like bunting, as it will withstand any weather and dry out quickly. If you're on a tight budget, it's a great way of keeping the cost down, with acrylic yarns starting from around £1 per 100g ball.

PHIL COTO
phildar
Scheepjes
Catona
ORIGINAL
Sugar'n Cream

COTTON

The classic summer yarn, cotton is also a favourite with crocheters all-year round, and those who are allergic to animal fibres. While cotton has little elasticity, it's extremely strong when spun, and takes colour beautifully. If you're crocheting something in cotton you don't need to fully soak it to block it when you're finished – in fact, if you get it very wet you may over-stretch it. Instead, just lie it flat on an ironing board or clean sheet, and give it a good blast of steam from your steam iron.

Crisp, cool cotton is perfect for children's garments, because it can be washed on hot temperatures. Lightweight cotton is also a great choice for lace tops and cardigans, but if you want to make a shawl with it, consider using a cotton/wool mix to stop it from stretching too much when it's being blocked.

HARRAP
Patons
Summer
Cotton
Knit Picks
Mighty Stitch

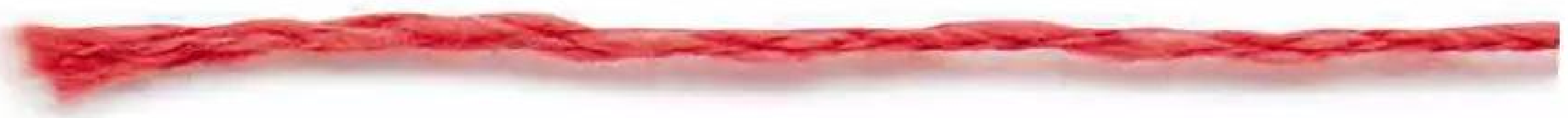
BLENDS

Blends are among the most popular yarns. Mills mix different fibres to create yarns that combine the best of both worlds. Want a summer yarn that feels light and breezy? Try cotton with lightweight acrylic. Love alpaca but it's just too hot? An alpaca/wool or cotton mix will be perfect! Blends also enable mills to create unusual yarns; synthetic fibres are often used to bind 'feature' items like sequins to the main strand of yarn. Synthetic fibres can be much cheaper than animal or plant fibres, too. If you adore cashmere, silk or wool, keep your eyes peeled for blended yarns that feature some of your favourite fibre. It'll usually be mixed with acrylic, viscose or nylon, and will often be cheaper, giving you more for your pennies!

ROWAN
creative linen
100g
Blacker
Lyonesse
Pure Wool with Linen
FARM
ZOOEY

LINEN

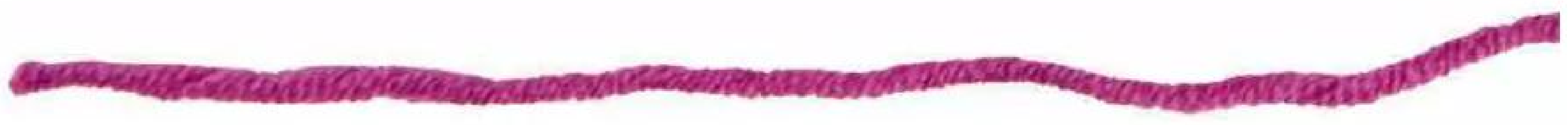
One of the first fibres ever spun, linen flax comes from plants. It's very strong and light, but has a tendency to crease in woven fabric. Happily, this is much less obvious in knitted or crocheted fabric. Like wool, linen is highly absorbent, and suitable for warm and cold weather, although it tends to be favoured for summer makes. Linen is labour intensive to produce, but new linen yarns include recycled fibres, making them more environmentally friendly. Unlike cotton, linen isn't prone to stretching, and tends to soften with washing. Linen yarns are still fairly few and far between, but worth tracking down. They're great for lace, but the lack of bounce makes them less suited to cables. If you want a dramatic, drapey garment, consider linen!



MILLAMIA
SWEDEN
Sublime
EXTRA FINE MERINO WORSTED
Blue faced Leicester
woolyknit

WOOL

Wool is breathable yet highly absorbent, so if you get caught in a rain shower in a woollen jumper it will keep you dry. As long as it's not a boiling hot day, it will also keep you cooler for the same reasons. Wool is long-lasting and softens with wear, so keep the moths away and a wool jumper could last decades. Thanks to its naturally anti-bacterial properties, wool also requires far less washing than other fibres. Use superwash yarn if you want to machine wash it though, as otherwise it can felt! Like other animal fibres, wool has a 'memory'. If you wet it and stretch it out (blocking) it will keep the shape it dries into, making it perfect for lace, which needs 'opening out' after knitting or crocheting. Choose wool for blankets, aran sweaters and close-fitting tops. If you're worried about it being itchy, wear a short length tied around a necklace or watch and see if it irritates you.

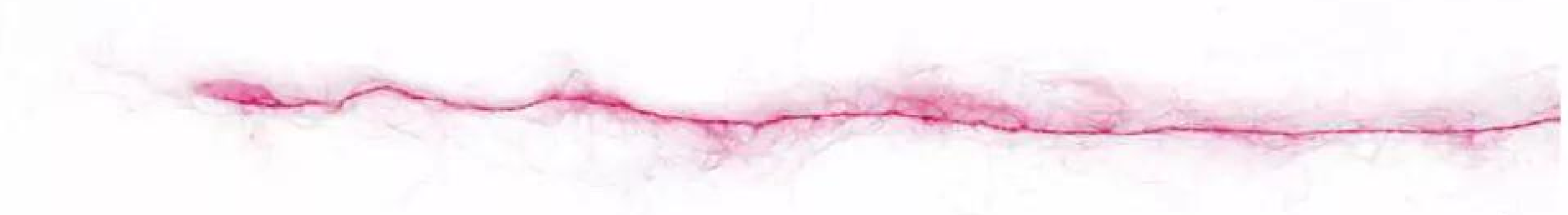


Merino Lace
Debbie Bliss
Angel
ROWAN
kidsilk haze

MOHAIR

While the '80s saw a brief spike in the presence of mohair on the high street, in the crochet (and knitting) world it has only ever grown in popularity. It's usually blended with silk or nylon to create a fluffy, strong yarn that takes dye brilliantly and looks amazing used in complex lace patterns.

If you like the feel of mohair but you're worried it'll be itchy, use the necklace trick (see Wool) before you commit to making a whole garment. You'll find it may feel quite itchy in warmer weather but not in the colder months, so give it a chance – or simply wear something underneath. Held double, very fine laceweight mohair-mix yarns create a warm, soft, eminently strokeable fabric that adds something special to plain stitch garments.



NEPAL
Alpaca Tweed
Stylecraft
MOONSHINE

ALPACA

For many years alpaca has been hailed as the 'new cashmere' due to its incredibly soft, luxurious feel. Thanks to its hollow fibres, which act as mini insulating rods, it's very warm, making it perfect for winter accessories. A pure alpaca jumper can actually be too hot for many people, so if you want to take advantage of the softness of alpaca for a garment, consider using a blend instead. Unlike wool, which has natural elasticity, alpaca has a tendency to 'grow' over time, so it's better to make garments in pieces rather than seamlessly, as the structure added by seams helps to prevent your top from stretching. While a huge amount of alpaca fibre comes from South America, brands like UK Alpaca process alpaca fibre for their own herds (and for other owners of small herds) in the UK, so it's easy to buy British alpaca yarn if you'd like to keep your crafting air miles to a minimum!

Louisa Harding
BERGERE DE FRANCE
scrumptious DK/Worsted

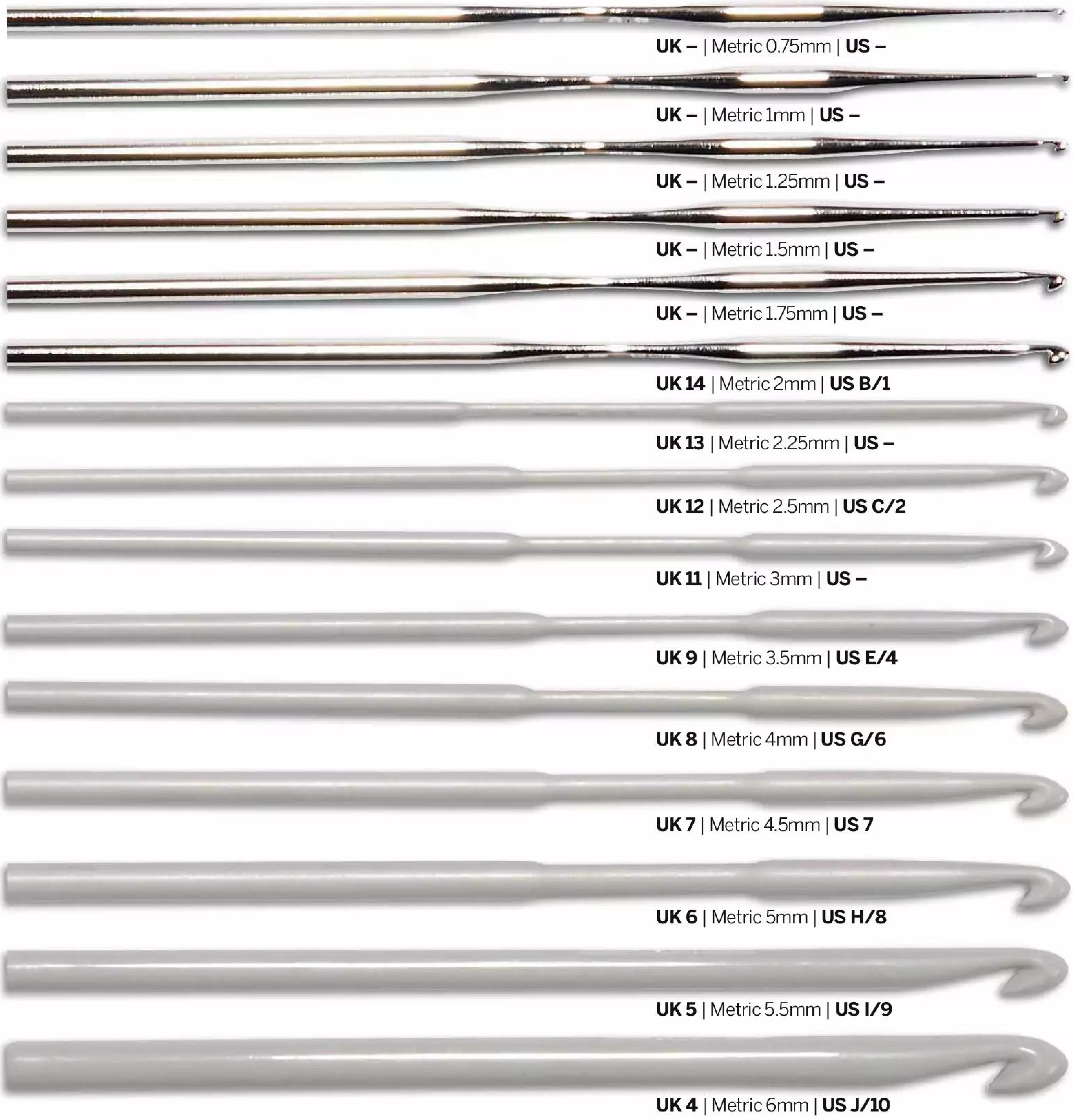
CASHMERE & SILK

While many yarns claim to be as soft as cashmere and as luxurious as silk, there is something very special about the real deal. Incredibly light, yet very warm, cashmere is combed from the tummies of mountain goats (yes, really!), and is very expensive. It's the top choice for a precious one-off knitted or crocheted piece. Many yarns include a touch of cashmere for softness, but few contain large quantities. On a budget? Choose yarn with a small amount of cashmere or save up for a pricier pure yarn.

Strong and striking, silk is a favourite with crocheters who love making lacy items in super fine yarns in vibrant colours. As well as pure silk yarns, alpaca and wool/silk mixes are popular choices for shawls and scarves. Silk is a lovely choice for light, drapey garments and, thanks to its sheen, gives noticeable stitch definition.

HOOKS AND TOOLS

Let's get straight to the point: you can't crochet without them!


UK – | Metric 0.75mm | **US –**
UK – | Metric 1mm | **US –**
UK – | Metric 1.25mm | **US –**
UK – | Metric 1.5mm | **US –**
UK – | Metric 1.75mm | **US –**
UK 14 | Metric 2mm | **US B/1**
UK 13 | Metric 2.25mm | **US –**
UK 12 | Metric 2.5mm | **US C/2**
UK 11 | Metric 3mm | **US –**
UK 9 | Metric 3.5mm | **US E/4**
UK 8 | Metric 4mm | **US G/6**
UK 7 | Metric 4.5mm | **US 7**
UK 6 | Metric 5mm | **US H/8**
UK 5 | Metric 5.5mm | **US I/9**
UK 4 | Metric 6mm | **US J/10**

HOOK SIZES

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	B/1
13	2.25mm	–
12	2.5mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	–
00	9mm	–
000	10mm	–

Crochet hooks come in all sizes, shapes and materials. But all you really need from a hook is that it's fairly short, thin, smooth and strong enough to enable you to turn yarn into the stitches used to make crocheted fabric.

Of course, things aren't quite that straightforward. You also need to think about the different yarn fibres you'll be working with, your stitch tension, personal preferences, and the fact that no one hook will work for all the projects you'll want to make, so it's a good idea to invest in a set of several hooks.

The first thing you need to know about crochet hooks is that they come in different sizes or thicknesses, just like yarn comes in different thicknesses. It's important to use the appropriate size of hook for the thickness of the yarn you're using. For example, when you're using a chunky yarn, you need to use a thicker hook or you'll end up with tiny stitches and a stiff, dense fabric.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN

When you're first learning to crochet, it's best to use the size of hook recommended on the yarn's ball band. For example, a DK yarn will usually recommend a 4mm hook, and this is a great combination for beginners to start practising with. Once you get more confident, you can vary the hook size to achieve different effects with the same yarn (we'll have more on this later).

Most hook sizes are measured in millimetres (mm), but you might also see hooks in traditional UK sizes (in numbers from 000 to 14) and traditional US sizes (in numbers from 0 to 50). We've included a handy conversion table so you can easily switch between the different sizes.

You'll also see above that some of the hooks available are very small – these are sometimes referred to as 'steel' hook sizes and can be used to crochet lace, jewellery and other tiny items using embroidery thread.

You don't need to have all these sizes in your hook stash to start crocheting, though. You'll probably find you use 3mm and 4mm hooks most often, so start off with these. You can pick up old crochet hooks for a great price at car boot sales and charity shops – just make sure they're in good condition and not chipped or bent.

Above, we've also included a life-size guide to the most common crochet hook sizes, so you can easily identify any old hooks that don't have numbers on them.

TYPES OF HOOK

Choose the right hook for your project

Modern crochet hooks are usually made of aluminium, steel, plastic, bamboo or wood. Below are some of the hook types you'll come across and what they're best used for. Collect hooks of different types for different uses.

The most commonly used crochet hook is the simple, straight hook. Examples of this sort of hook have been around for hundreds of years. They're easy to use, with the hook at the end helping to pull loops of yarn through other loops of yarn, to form fabric. The fabric can be flat or tubular. You'll only ever work with one loop of yarn, so crochet hooks don't need to be any larger than your hand. Crochet hooks come in a standard length of 15cm, although you can also find them in 20cm and 25cm lengths.

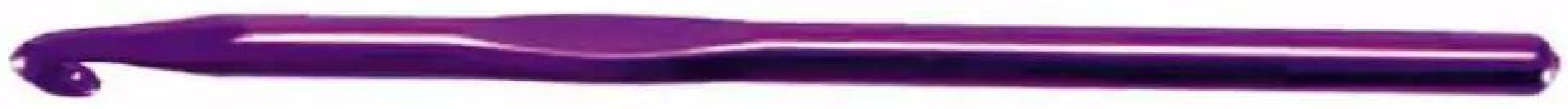
Store your hooks carefully, such as in a padded hook roll, and they'll give you many years of service. Replace them if they become rough, to avoid damaging your yarn or affecting your tension. You don't have to throw out old hooks you can't crochet with though – try displaying them in a pretty vase!

SUPER-SIZED HOOKS

Use enormous hooks like this to crochet with big yarns, or even a thinner yarn for a lacy look. Super-sized hooks result in super-quick projects! Great fun for teenage crocheters, too.

WOOD & BAMBOO

Smooth, gorgeous to handle and great to look at, bamboo and wood are good materials to use with slippery yarns such as silks and fine wools, because they grip the yarn better than metal hooks do.

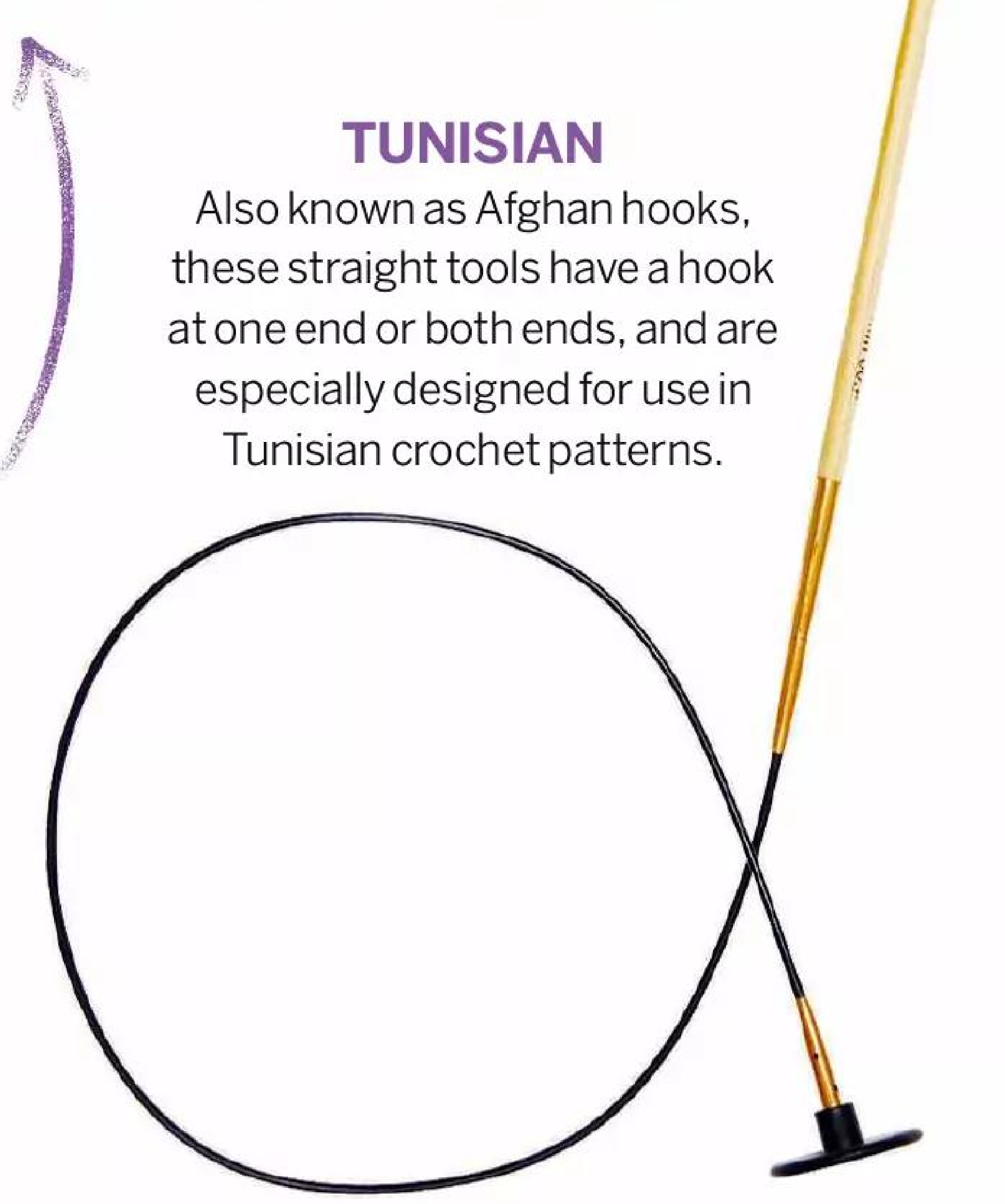


METAL

Made from one of the most common and useful materials, metal hooks are perfect for 'stickier' yarns such as acrylic because they're smooth and the yarn slides along easily. The more polished a hook is, the faster you can work. If you have arthritis or similar problems, try using bamboo or wooden hooks. Very fine crochet hooks are usually metal and can bend easily, so take good care of them!

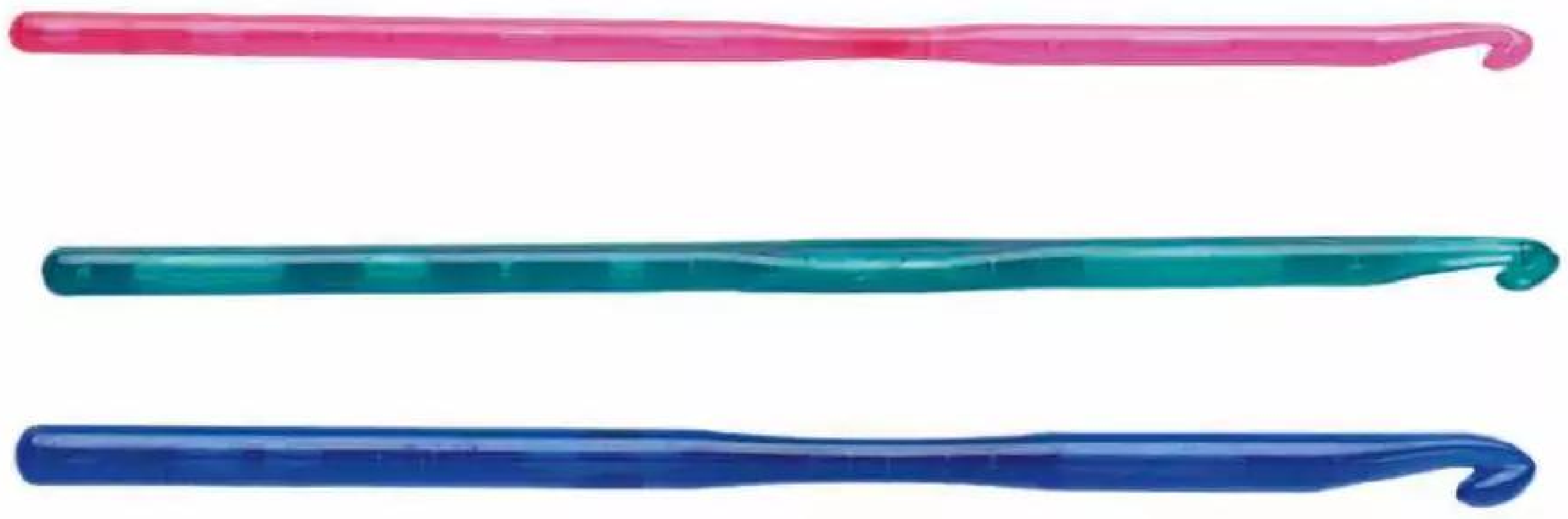
TUNISIAN

Also known as Afghan hooks, these straight tools have a hook at one end or both ends, and are especially designed for use in Tunisian crochet patterns.



PLASTIC

Light and strong, plastic is great for getting new or young crafters to learn to crochet. Plastic hooks are an inexpensive way to build up your hook stash, especially since plastic is often used for larger hooks. Acrylic hooks are similar to plastic, but they can be a little heavier. Both are comfortable to use.



Hooked 3mm
4.00 mm

MIXTURE

Some hooks combine different materials to get the best of both. Most popular are hooks with metal tips and wooden or plastic handles, which can manoeuvre the yarn easily and feel good in your hand. Some hooks even have moulded ergonomic grips so the least possible strain is placed on your hands.

FOLLOWING A PATTERN

Here's our guide to understanding a typical crochet pattern

1 YOU WILL NEED

This box tells you exactly what yarn and hooks you will need to complete the pattern, as well as other equipment, such as fabric or buttons. Yarn amounts are based on average requirements, so if your tension is loose, you might need more.

2 TENSION

This part of the pattern information panel tells you how many rows and stitches are needed for the correct tension required to complete the design. Page 47 explains tension squares in detail.

3 ABBREVIATIONS

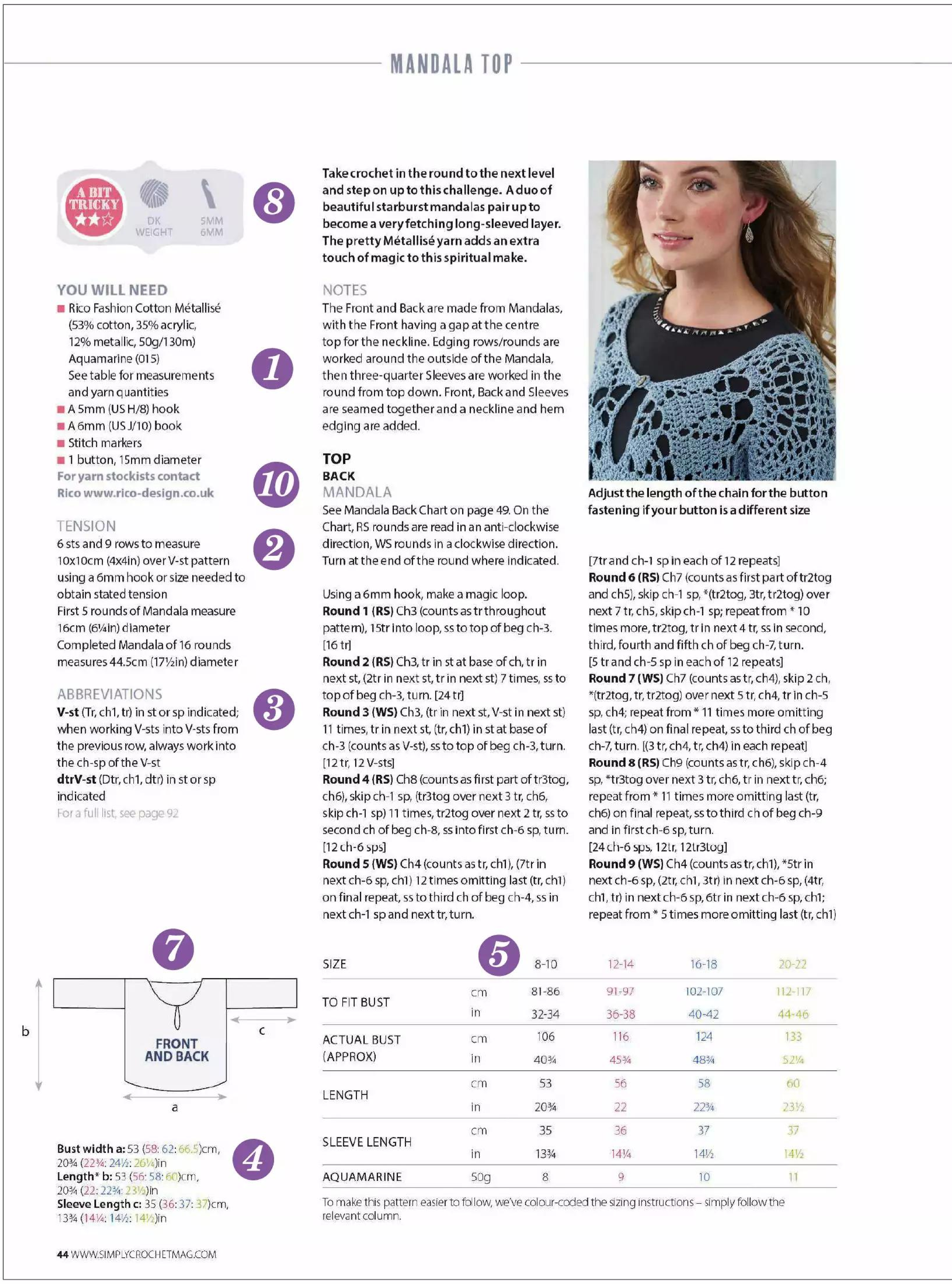
Special abbreviations used within the pattern are explained here. For our extensive list, turn to page 18.

4 MEASUREMENTS

Most patterns state the size of the finished item – if it's a garment, sizes may be in a table. 'Actual' measurements are the finished size of the item. 'To fit' measurements show the recommended measurements of the intended wearer.

5 DIFFERENT SIZES

If the pattern is for a garment or other item that can be made in different sizes, there will often be a table like this. Some patterns use colour-coding to help you follow the size instructions you need throughout the pattern.



MANDALA TOP

A BIT TRICKY ★★☆
DK WEIGHT
5MM
6MM

8

Take crochet in the round to the next level and step on up to this challenge. A duo of beautiful starburst mandalas pair up to become a very fetching long-sleeved layer. The pretty Métallisé yarn adds an extra touch of magic to this spiritual make.

YOU WILL NEED

1

- Rico Fashion Cotton Métallisé (53% cotton, 35% acrylic, 12% metallic, 50g/130m) Aquamarine (015) See table for measurements and yarn quantities
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- A 6mm (US J/10) book
- Stitch markers
- 1 button, 15mm diameter

For yarn stockists contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

10

TENSION

2

6 sts and 9 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over V-st pattern using a 6mm hook or size needed to obtain stated tension
First 5 rounds of Mandala measure 16cm (6¼in) diameter
Completed Mandala of 16 rounds measures 44.5cm (17½in) diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

3

V-st (Tr, ch1, tr) in st or sp indicated; when working V-sts into V-sts from the previous row, always work into the ch-sp of the V-st
dtrV-st (Dtr, ch1, dtr) in st or sp indicated
For a full list, see page 92

7

4

Bust width a: 53 (58: 62: 66.5)cm, 20¾ (22¾: 24½: 26¼)in
Length* b: 53 (56: 58: 60)cm, 20¾ (22: 22¾: 23½)in
Sleeve Length c: 35 (36: 37: 37)cm, 13¾ (14¼: 14½: 14½)in

NOTES

The Front and Back are made from Mandalas, with the Front having a gap at the centre top for the neckline. Edging rows/rounds are worked around the outside of the Mandala, then three-quarter Sleeves are worked in the round from top down. Front, Back and Sleeves are seamed together and a neckline and hem edging are added.

TOP

BACK

MANDALA

See Mandala Back Chart on page 49. On the Chart, RS rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction, WS rounds in a clockwise direction. Turn at the end of the round where indicated.

Using a 6mm hook, make a magic loop.
Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout pattern), 15tr into loop, ss to top of beg ch-3. [16 tr]
Round 2 (RS) Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, tr in next st, (2tr in next st, tr in next st) 7 times, ss to top of beg ch-3, turn. [24 tr]
Round 3 (WS) Ch3, (tr in next st, V-st in next st) 11 times, tr in next st, (tr, ch1) in st at base of ch-3 (counts as V-st), ss to top of beg ch-3, turn. [12 tr, 12 V-sts]
Round 4 (RS) Ch8 (counts as first part of tr3tog, ch6), skip ch-1 sp, (tr3tog over next 3 tr, ch6, skip ch-1 sp) 11 times, tr2tog over next 2 tr, ss to second ch of beg ch-8, ss into first ch-6 sp, turn. [12 ch-6 sps]
Round 5 (WS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (7tr in next ch-6 sp, ch1) 12 times omitting last (tr, ch1) on final repeat, ss to third ch of beg ch-4, ss in next ch-1 sp and next tr, turn. [7tr and ch-1 sp in each of 12 repeats]
Round 6 (RS) Ch7 (counts as first part of tr2tog and ch5), skip ch-1 sp, *(tr2tog, 3tr, tr2tog) over next 7 tr, ch5, skip ch-1 sp; repeat from * 10 times more, tr2tog, tr in next 4 tr, ss in second, third, fourth and fifth ch of beg ch-7, turn. [5 tr and ch-5 sp in each of 12 repeats]
Round 7 (WS) Ch7 (counts as tr, ch4), skip 2 ch, *(tr2tog, tr, tr2tog) over next 5 tr, ch4, tr in ch-5 sp, ch4; repeat from * 11 times more omitting last (tr, ch4) on final repeat, ss to third ch of beg ch-7, turn. [(3 tr, ch4, tr, ch4) in each repeat]
Round 8 (RS) Ch9 (counts as tr, ch6), skip ch-4 sp, *tr3tog over next 3 tr, ch6, tr in next tr, ch6; repeat from * 11 times more omitting last (tr, ch6) on final repeat, ss to third ch of beg ch-9 and in first ch-6 sp, turn. [24 ch-6 sps, 12tr, 12tr3tog]
Round 9 (WS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), *5tr in next ch-6 sp, (2tr, ch1, 3tr) in next ch-6 sp, (4tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-6 sp, 6tr in next ch-6 sp, ch1; repeat from * 5 times more omitting last (tr, ch1)

Adjust the length of the chain for the button fastening if your button is a different size

5

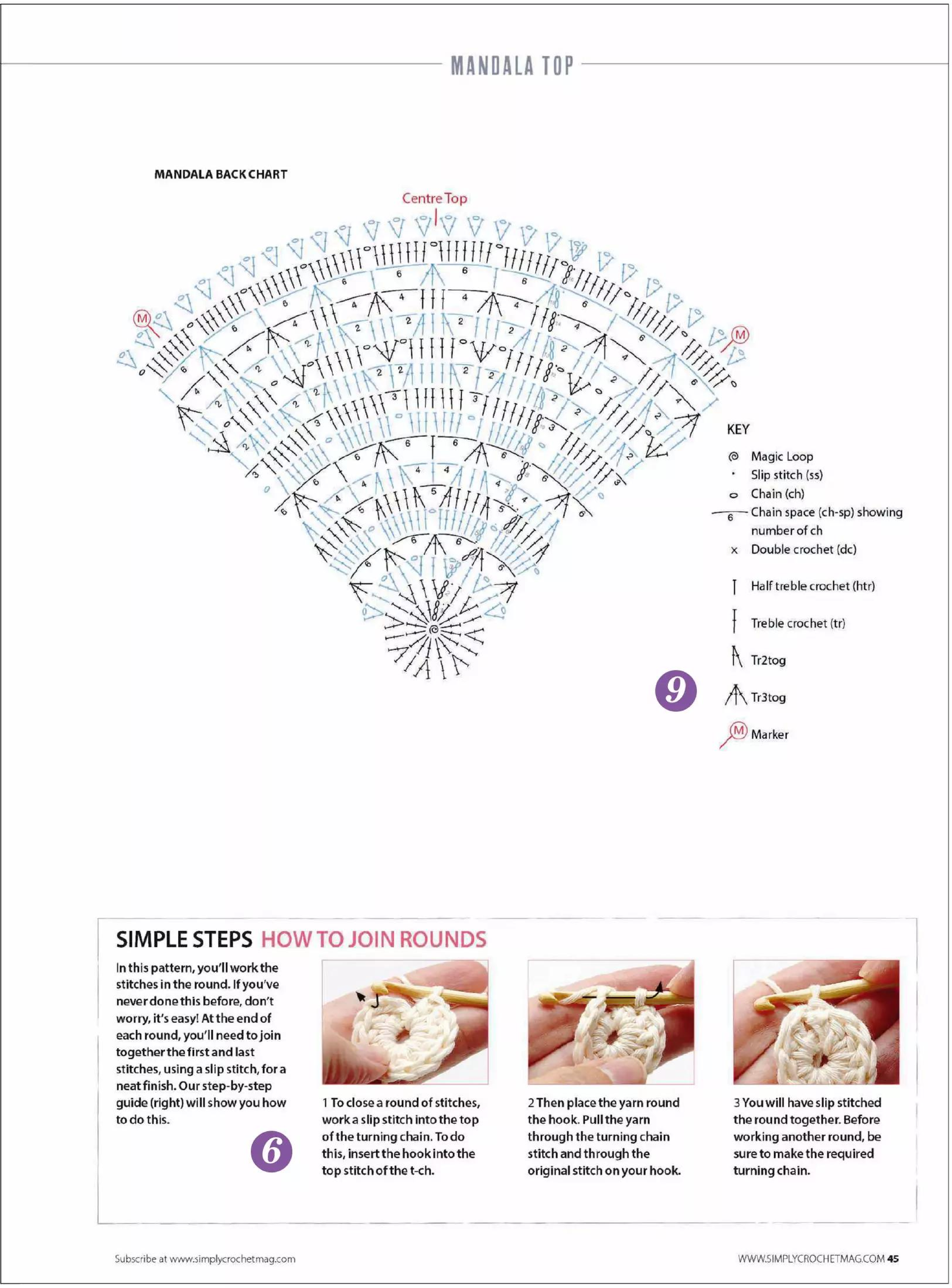
SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46
ACTUAL BUST (APPROX)	cm	106	116	124	133
	in	40¾	45¾	48¾	52¼
LENGTH	cm	53	56	58	60
	in	20¾	22	22¾	23½
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	35	36	37	37
	in	13¾	14¼	14½	14½
AQUAMARINE	50g	8	9	10	11

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

44 WWW.SIMPLYCROCHETMAG.COM

You'll find that different crochet patterns can look very different, depending on which magazine, book, online publication or blog it appears on. All these different components can look quite confusing, with what seems like a secret code that needs to be cracked before you can crochet! Don't worry, though – everything is really quite simple.

Below are the key elements that should appear on every pattern and what they mean. It's a good idea to take the time to read through a pattern before you pick up your hook and yarn. A thorough read of the pattern will give you an idea of the techniques involved and how any separate crocheted pieces will fit together to create the final item. Make sure you've got everything you need before you start, and don't forget to double check your tension is correct – unless the pattern tells you you don't need to!



MANDALA TOP

MANDALA BACK CHART

KEY

- @ Magic Loop
- · Slip stitch (ss)
- o Chain (ch)
- 6 Chain space (ch-sp) showing number of ch
- × Double crochet (dc)
- Half treble crochet (htr)
- Treble crochet (tr)
- Tr2tog
- Tr3tog
- Ⓜ Marker

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO JOIN ROUNDS

In this pattern, you'll work the stitches in the round. If you've never done this before, don't worry, it's easy! At the end of each round, you'll need to join together the first and last stitches, using a slip stitch, for a neat finish. Our step-by-step guide (right) will show you how to do this.

1 To close a round of stitches, work a slip stitch into the top of the turning chain. To do this, insert the hook into the top stitch of the t-ch.

2 Then place the yarn round the hook. Pull the yarn through the turning chain stitch and through the original stitch on your hook.

3 You will have slip stitched the round together. Before working another round, be sure to make the required turning chain.

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WWW.SIMPLYCROCHETMAG.COM 45

6 HOW TO...

If there's an element within the pattern that might require a little extra knowledge or skill, there might be a handy step-by-step guide like this.

7 SCHEMATICS

You'll find these diagrams on garments, and sometimes, with larger accessories. They offer a handy guide to the finished measurements of the different crocheted pieces that make up that particular item.

8 SUMMARY

Simply Crochet magazine patterns include a difficulty rating, the weight of yarn/s used and the size of hook you need. That way, you can see at a glance whether it's a pattern you fancy making.

9 CHARTS

Often used on patterns with motifs or colourwork, charts are a great visual way to follow a pattern. They will either sit next to written instructions or be used instead of them. Find out more at www.gathered.how.

10 STOCKISTS

Many patterns you see use yarns from a specific supplier. In order to help you get that yarn, the pattern will also include stockist details for who you can contact about buying it, and sometimes other equipment.

GLOSSARY

A guide to basic terms, from slipknots to surface crochet

Amigurumi
The Japanese art of cute crochet toys: ‘ami’ means crocheted and ‘nuigurumi’ means stuffed doll.

Ball band
The wrapper around a ball, skein or hank of yarn that includes useful information on that yarn.

Ball end of yarn
The end of the yarn that runs from the stitch on your hook back to the ball of yarn being used.

Ball winder
A device for winding yarn hanks into balls to be used for crochet. A winder is often used with a swift.

Blocking
Shaping a piece of crochet once it’s finished by pinning it out flat while it’s damp and letting it dry.

Cable
A motif created by crossing crochet stitches over each other. Designs can look like twisted ropes, hence the name.

Chain
The loops that you create by passing one loop of yarn through another, using a crochet hook.

Chain space
The space created by working a chain length between stitches.

Cluster
A group of stitches worked into the same stitch or chain space.

Colourwork
Using more than one colour in your crochet, such as stripes, tapestry crochet and more.

Decreases
Reducing the number of stitches on a row, in order to shape your crochet or create an effect.

Double crochet
One of the most used crochet stitches. It’s small and dense.

Double treble crochet
A lacy crochet stitch, taller than a treble crochet stitch.

Ease
A term used to describe how snugly or loosely a garment will fit – positive ease makes a garment baggy, while negative ease makes a garment form fitting.

Edging
Adding crochet stitches around the edge of a fabric (this could be a crocheted or other type of fabric).

Fasten off
The method of securing the final stitch in a row or round, so that the stitches do not come undone.

Foundation chain
The base of chain stitches that the first row is worked into.

Foundation row
The first row of stitches worked into the foundation chain. It can also refer to the technique of crocheting the first row of stitches without a foundation chain.

Frogging
Undoing the stitches in a piece of crochet, either to correct a mistake or to use the yarn for another project. (So-called because you ‘rip it, rip it’!)

Granny square
A traditional motif worked in the round, with different colours used for each round. Usually uses groups of treble crochet stitches, often in threes.

Half treble
A regularly used crochet stitch, it’s taller than double crochet but shorter than treble crochet.

Hank
A coil of yarn (often with delicate fibres) that must be wound into a ball before you can crochet with it. Also called a skein.

Hook size
The size of your hook, according to traditional US and UK sizing systems or the measurement in millimetres of the circumference of a hook. The size, combined with the weight of the yarn, dictates how dense or loose the finished crocheted fabric will be.

Increases
Increasing the number of stitches on a row, in order to shape a garment or form a stitch pattern.

Magic loop
A method of creating a foundation ring for working in the round. It creates a very tight centre with no visible hole.

Making up
Sewing together different parts of an item, such as the sleeves and body of a sweater. Also called joining or seaming.

Mesh
A crochet technique that uses stitches and chain lengths to create a fabric that looks like a ‘net’.

Motif
Small crocheted shapes, usually worked in the round. They can be sewn together to create a larger item or used to decorate fabric. Also applies to granny squares.

Notions
Accessories and equipment, ranging from the essential to the frivolous, including stitch markers, bag handles and buttons.

Picot
A small, decorative loop created at the edge of the crochet fabric.

Pilling
The ‘bobbled’ effect seen on crocheted garments caused by everyday wear.

Ply
A strand of fibre that can be spun together with other plies to form a yarn (e.g. some 4ply yarn is made from four strands).

Post
The upright 'post' of a stitch. Some patterns might ask you to insert the hook around the post of the stitch on the previous row, and work a stitch here.

Reverse shaping
To work a pattern in the mirror image of any previous shaping, such as on the left and right front of a cardigan. For example, to mirror increase stitches at the end of a row, you'd need to increase at the start of a row.

Right side
The 'public-facing' side of an item, such as the outside of a sweater or hat.

Round
The name for a row of stitches when crocheting in the round. These can create a flat fabric (such as a disc) or a tubular fabric (such as a sleeve).

Row
A series of stitches that runs the width of your fabric. Lengthening or shortening rows by increasing or decreasing the number of stitches will shape the item.

Row counter
A device that helps you to keep track of how many rows or rounds you have worked so far.

Skein
(see hank)

Skip a stitch
An instruction in patterns, which means you do not work into this stitch but move on to the next one. You may also see it called 'miss a stitch'.

Slipknot
The most commonly used way to start your crochet fabric. This knot creates a secure loop of yarn, from which you can work your chains.

Slip stitch
More of a technique than a stitch, it's used to join areas of the crochet fabric, often the last stitch to the first stitch in a round.

Stash
A crocheter's collection of yarn, needles and notions.

Stitch
One individual crochet stitch, including the post of the stitch and the top two loops, which form a neat v-shape. Usually, you'll insert the hook under these two loops to work the next stitch.

Stitch marker
A tool used to denote important places in your crochet. This could be the start of a round or spiral, an important area of shaping or a pattern repeat. Often a clasp or spiral of plastic.

Surface crochet
Crochet stitches that are worked on top of crocheted fabric to create details and 'draw' designs onto finished crochet items.

Swift
A rotating device that holds a hank or skein of yarn while it's being wound into a ball (either by hand or by using a ball winder).

Tail end
The loose, short end of the yarn you're using – as opposed to the ball end, which runs back to the ball of yarn you're using.

Tapestry crochet
A colourwork technique that creates interesting designs using two or three colours of yarn. The non-working shade is carried across the back of the fabric. Variations on this technique are intarsia, Fair Isle, mosaic and jacquard crochet.

Tension
The number of stitches and rows that a given combination of yarn weight and hook size should create. You need to get your tension correct to ensure that the finished object is the right size.

Treble crochet
One of the most used crochet stitches. It's fairly tall and lacy.

Triple treble crochet
A very lacy crochet stitch, taller than a double treble crochet.

Turning chain
A series of chains worked at the beginning of a row or round, to bring the hook up to the right height for working the stitches in that row or round. Different stitches are different heights, so you need a different number of chains to form the turning chain for different stitches.

Weaving in ends
The process of tidying up your finished item and securing loose ends by weaving them into the back of the crochet fabric.

WIP
Short for 'work in progress' – any project that you've started but not yet finished.

Work straight
An instruction you may see in patterns, which means to continue a series of rows in a pattern without increasing or decreasing. Also known as 'work even'.

Working yarn
The strand of yarn currently in use (most likely to be mentioned in colourwork patterns where colours are swapped in and out).

Wrong side
The side of your item that will be the back (or the inside) once it's finished. This won't usually be on show.

Yarn
Any fibre that's been spun into a strand so it can be crocheted with. The word 'yarn' is often used instead of 'wool' in order to distinguish actual wool from other types!

Yarn round hook
A key crochet technique to learn. The process of moving the hook so the yarn wraps around hook in an anti-clockwise (RH) or clockwise (LH) direction. Used to create all crochet stitches. Also called yarn over hook.

Yarn weight
How thick a yarn is. Thicker yarns require larger hooks, and thinner yarns require smaller hooks, unless you want a lacier effect for a specific pattern.

ABBREVIATIONS

It's easy to learn the language of a crochet pattern!

At first glance, you might think crochet patterns are written in another language. And they sort of are, but it's a simple language to understand. Patterns use a set of abbreviations that are sensible ways to shorten the description of techniques that you'll do regularly.

For example, double crochet is abbreviated to dc. These letters are often accompanied by a number that relates to the stitches. For example, 4dc means 'double crochet 4 stitches'. This system creates a shorthand that makes patterns shorter and simpler. If all the instructions were written in full, some patterns would run to dozens of pages.

We'll have more on specific abbreviations in later chapters, once you start learning the techniques and practising them by making our simple projects. But if you see an abbreviation you don't understand, you can just come back to this page.

Just to be clear, our patterns use UK crochet terminology throughout. You'll find that crocheters in the UK and US use very different crochet terms, such as 'single crochet' in the US and 'double crochet' in the UK. The UK and US also use different systems for yarn weights (see page 9 for more) and hook sizes (see page 12 for more). Aside from these areas, the differences are quite minor, so don't be put off from using a pattern from either country. Most patterns will state which terms they are using.

CROCHET (UK)

across	to the end of the row
alt	alternate
approx	approximate(ly)
beg	beginning
bet	between
bl	back loop: insert hook under back loop only and work the stitch instructed. Example bldc – back loop double crochet
bp	back post: insert hook from the back to front to back around the post of the st in row below and work the stitch instructed. Example BPtr – back post treble
CC	contrast colour
ch(s)	chain or chain stitch(es)
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)
ch-	refers to ch made previously, for example, ch-3
cl(s)	cluster(s), for example: 4-tr cluster (yrh, insert hook in sp/st, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting hook in same sp/st, yrh, draw through all loops on hook
cont	continue
dc	double crochet
dc2tog	work 2 dc together: (insert hk in next st, yrh, draw loop through) twice, yrh, draw through all 3 loops on hook
dec	decrease (by working two stitches together)
DK	double knitting
dtr	double treble crochet
dtr2tog	work 2 dtr sts together: (yrh twice, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, draw through 2 loops, yrh, draw through 2 loops) 2 times, yrh, draw through all loops on hk
fl	front loop: insert hook under front loop only and work the stitch instructed. Example: fldc – front loop double crochet
foll/s	following/follows
fp	front post: insert hook from the front to back to front around the post of the st in row below and work the stitch instructed. For example: FPtr – front post treble
gr	group
hk	crochet hook
htr	half treble crochet
htr2tog	work 2htr together: (yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up loop) 2 times, yrh, draw through all loops on hk
in next	sts to be worked into same stitch
inc	increase (by working two stitches into the same space or stitch below)
LH	left hand
lp(s)	loop(s)
MC	main colour
meas	measures
nc	not closed
p or pc	picot
patt(s)	pattern(s)
patt rep(s)	pattern repeat(s)
PB	place bead
PM	place marker
prev	previous
rem	remain/remaining
rep(s)	repeat(s)
rb	raised back. Example rbdc– raised back double crochet
rf	raised front. Example: rfdc – raised front double crochet
RH	right hand
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sk	skip
ss/sl st	slip stitch
sp(s)	space(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)
t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
tog	together
tr	treble crochet
tr2tog	work 2 tr together: (yrh, insert hk in next st, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, draw through 2 loops) 2 times, yrh, draw through all loops on hook
ttr	triple treble crochet
ttr2tog	work 2 ttr sts together: (yrh 3 times, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, [yrh, draw through 2 loops] 3 times) 2 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook)
WS	wrong side
yrh	yarn round hook
*****	work instructions immediately following *, then repeat as directed
[] or ()	work or repeat all instructions in the brackets as directed

UK/US CONVERSIONS

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr

BASIC TECHNIQUES

Your crochet adventures will start right here. Relax and indulge in some quiet time to play with yarn and hook. Sit down at a table or desk and in less than an hour, you'll be a crocheter...

START CROCHETING HERE

Time to pick up your hook and yarn and start crocheting...

Crochet really is easy when you know how, and this chapter will help you get to grips with the basics, with clear, step-by-step instructions for all the main techniques. With a bit of practice, you'll find that crochet is a fun and simple way to create cosy fabrics for all sorts of items, from fashion to homewares.

All you need to get started is a quiet place, where you won't be disturbed, and about an hour. You'll also need a hook and some yarn. Anything you can get your hands on should be fine, although we recommend you use a smooth acrylic or wool yarn, either DK weight with a 4mm hook, or aran weight with a 5mm hook to start.

The important thing to remember is that every crocheter is different, and what works well for one might not suit another. There are also many styles of crochet, with different ways of holding the hook and working with the yarn to create crocheted fabric.

We'll show you the most commonly used methods, but you should do whatever feels most natural for you. Just experiment until you find a comfortable way of performing each technique and don't worry if your preferred way is slightly different from ours, as long as the result is the same.

SIDE TO SIDE

In this guide, we've tried to include instructions for left-handed crocheters as well as right-handed crocheters. Some left-handed people will actually crochet in a right-handed fashion, but again, do whatever feels most comfortable to you. If you find any right-handed instructions that you want to switch to being left-handed, you'll need to reverse the instructions (switching all 'rights' for 'lefts' and vice versa). You might also find it helps to place the pages in front of a mirror and then copy the reflection of the images.

Many people are taught to crochet by a friend or relative, while others prefer to learn from pictures or videos. You can use our guide to teach you how to crochet, or you can use it as a reference once you've learned the basics, depending on your preferred learning method. We're going to show you each technique in the order you'll use it, from making chains and double crochet stitches to fastening off. However, some people like to learn things in their own order, and then go back and revisit the basics. There's no right or wrong method, so do whatever works best for you. Good luck!

CROCHET CLUB
Join a club for advice, encouragement and plenty of fun!

ON A MISSION
We'll teach you how to crochet, but do it in a way that works for you

CRAFT TOGETHER
Learn to crochet with a friend and you can help each other

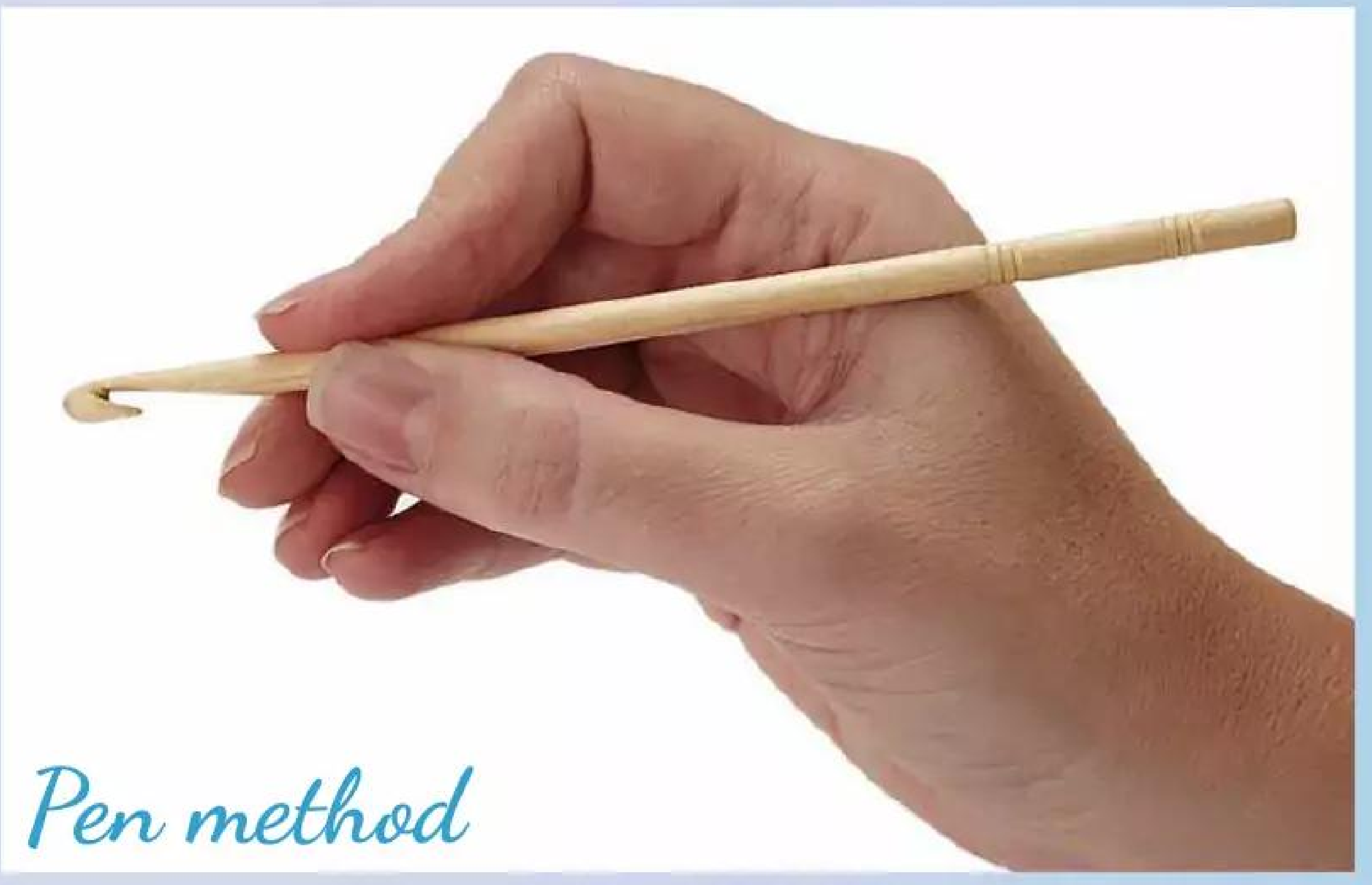
HOLD YOUR HOOK

Find a comfy way to hold your hook – not too tight!

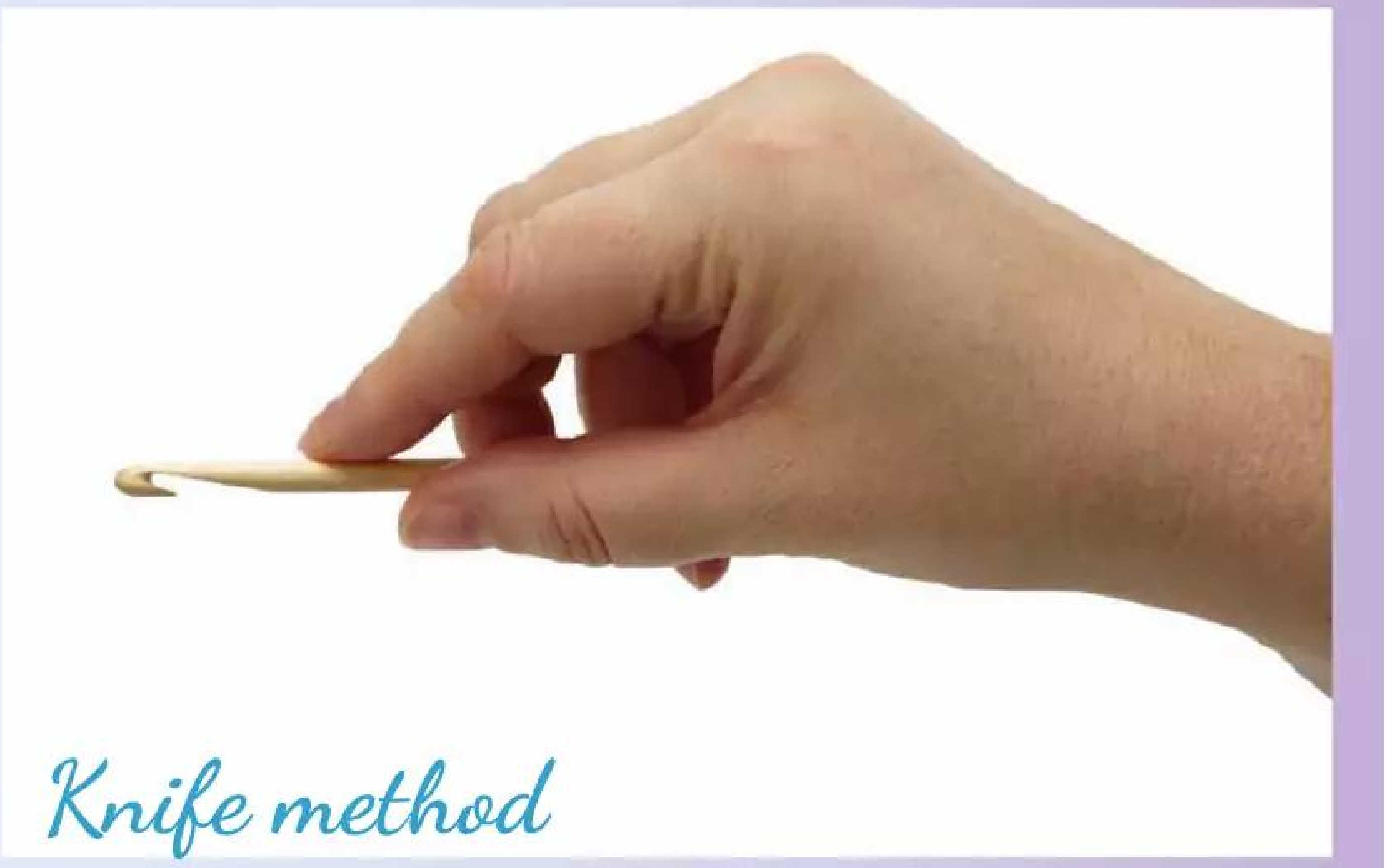
Grab a 4mm or 5mm hook and practise holding it. If you're right-handed, hold it in your right hand; if you're left-handed, use your left hand. If your hook has a flat area, hold it here. Try not to grip the hook too tightly – aim for your hand to feel relaxed.

Try out both the pen and knife methods of holding the hook, shown below. Some people find the pen grip enables their movements to be more fluid and to crochet more quickly, while others find the knife grip gives them more control. See what feels more natural. If neither (or both!) work for you, just find a way that does.

RIGHT-HAND

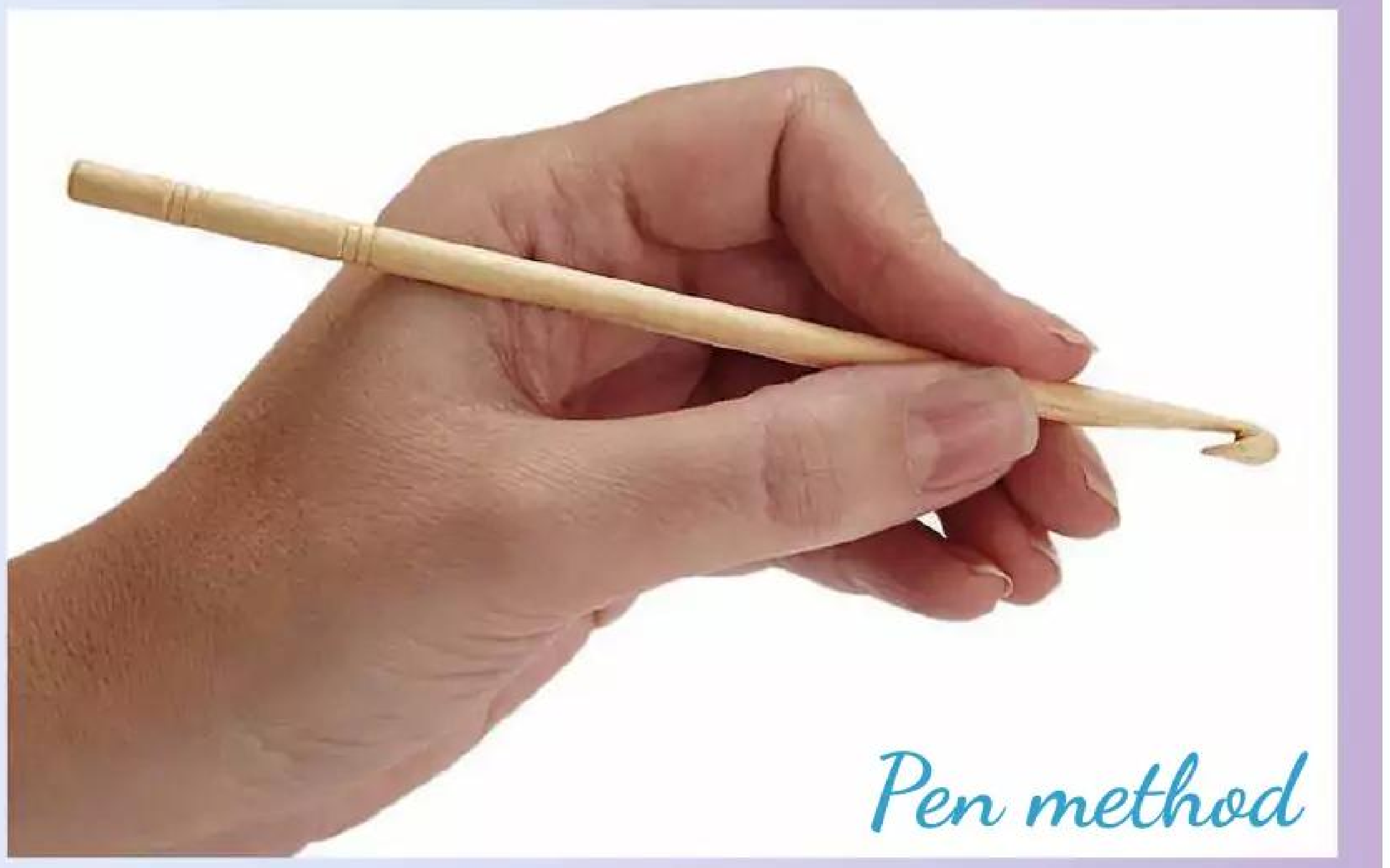

Pen method

The most popular way to hold a hook is the pen method, shown here. Hold the hook in your right hand, approx 3-5cm (1-2in) from the hooked end, as if you're about to write with it like a pen or pencil.

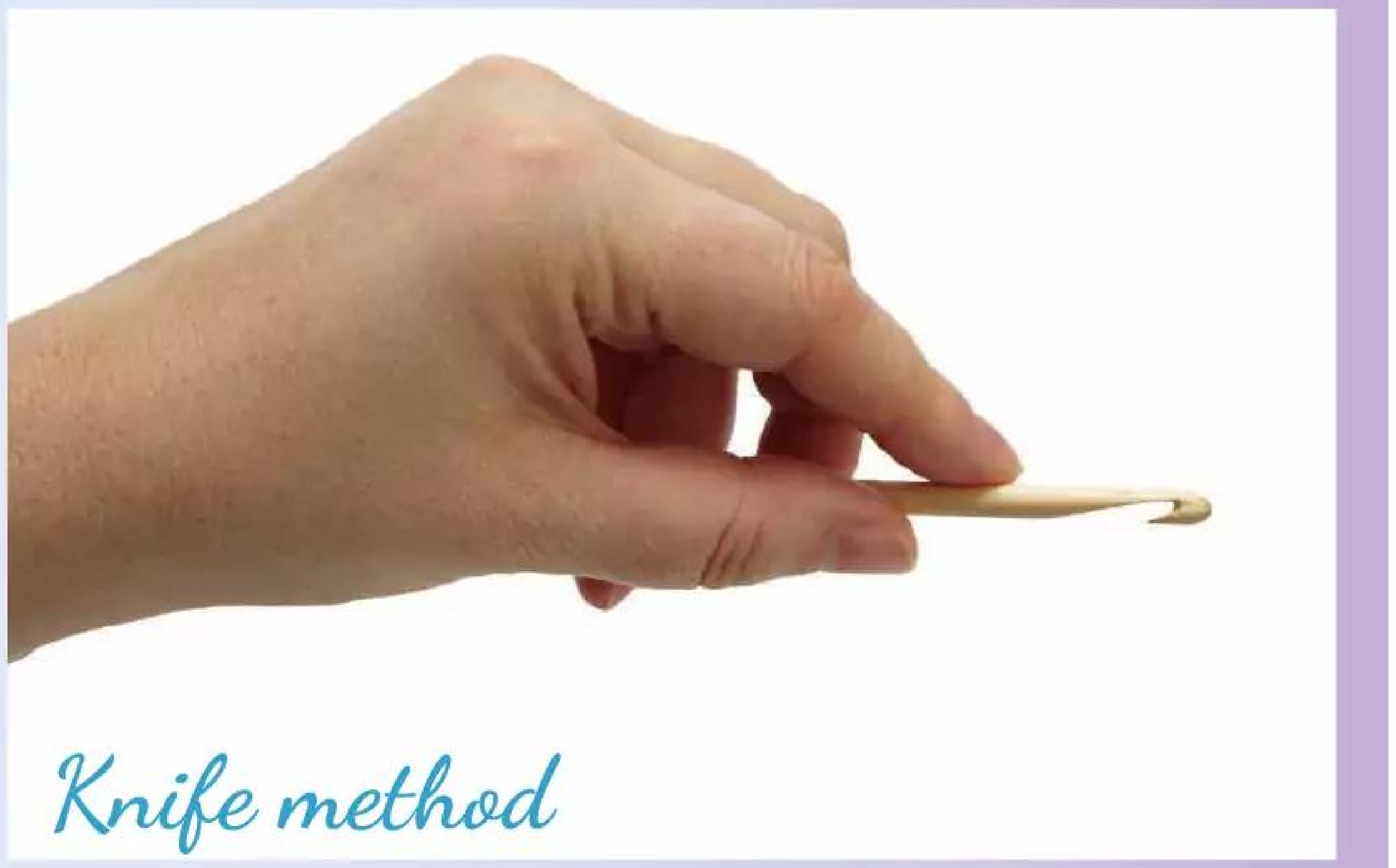

Knife method

Alternatively, try holding the hook like you would hold a knife. Place your index finger further down the hook, away from the thumb.

LEFT-HAND


Pen method

The most popular way to hold a hook is the pen method, shown here. Hold the hook in your left hand, approx 3-5cm (1-2in) from the hooked end, as if you're about to write with it like a pen or pencil.


Knife method

Alternatively, try holding the hook like you would hold a knife. Place your index finger further down the hook, away from the thumb.

MAKE A SLIPKNOT

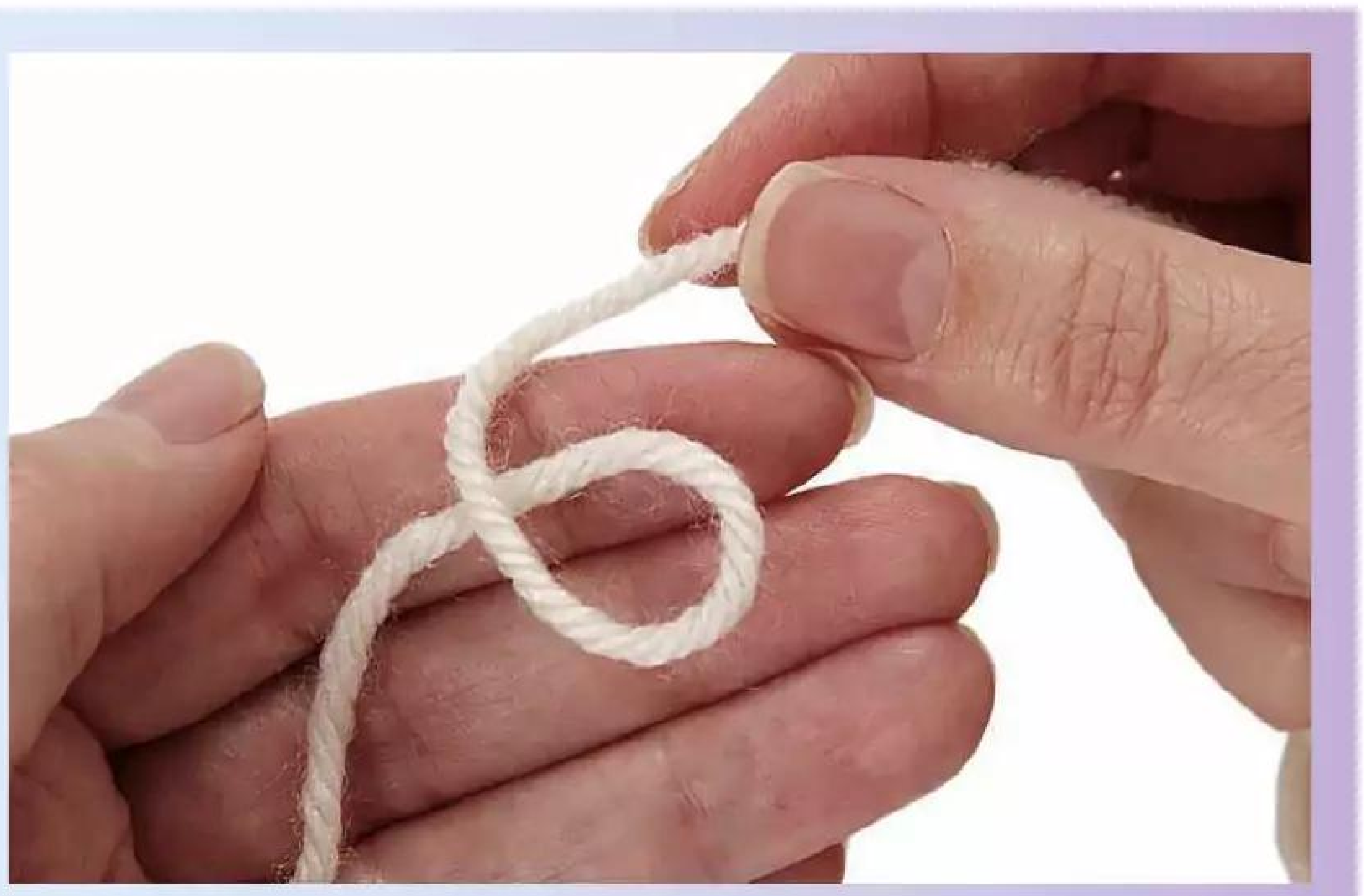
Start crocheting by making one simple loop

When you get down to the basics, crochet is just a series of loops, all pulled through one another to create a fabric. The first loop is a slipknot, so it's important to get it right. But don't worry, it's not hard, and you may even have made them before. Take your time and practise a little bit – it will pay off in the end.

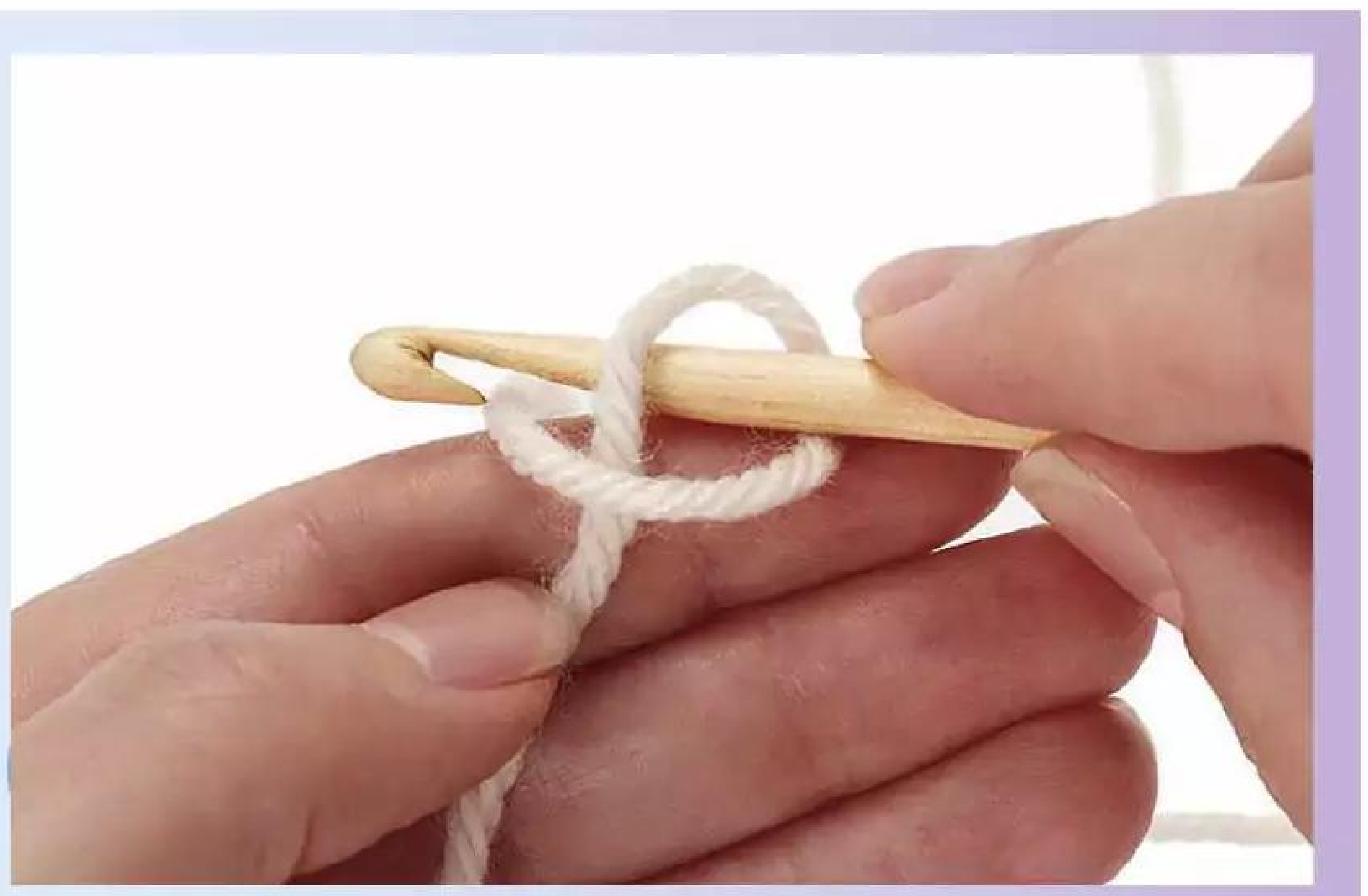
Sit down with your hook and yarn, and practise making slipknots. Make sure you leave a fairly long tail of yarn at the end, approximately 10cm (4in) long. This way, you can be sure it won't unravel and it will be easier to weave into your fabric at the end. You don't need to pull your slipknot too tight once it's on the hook – if it's a bit looser then it will be easier to work the first chain. You're aiming for the knot to be close to the hook, but not touching it. Once you've made the first chain, you can tighten up the slipknot.

RIGHT-HAND

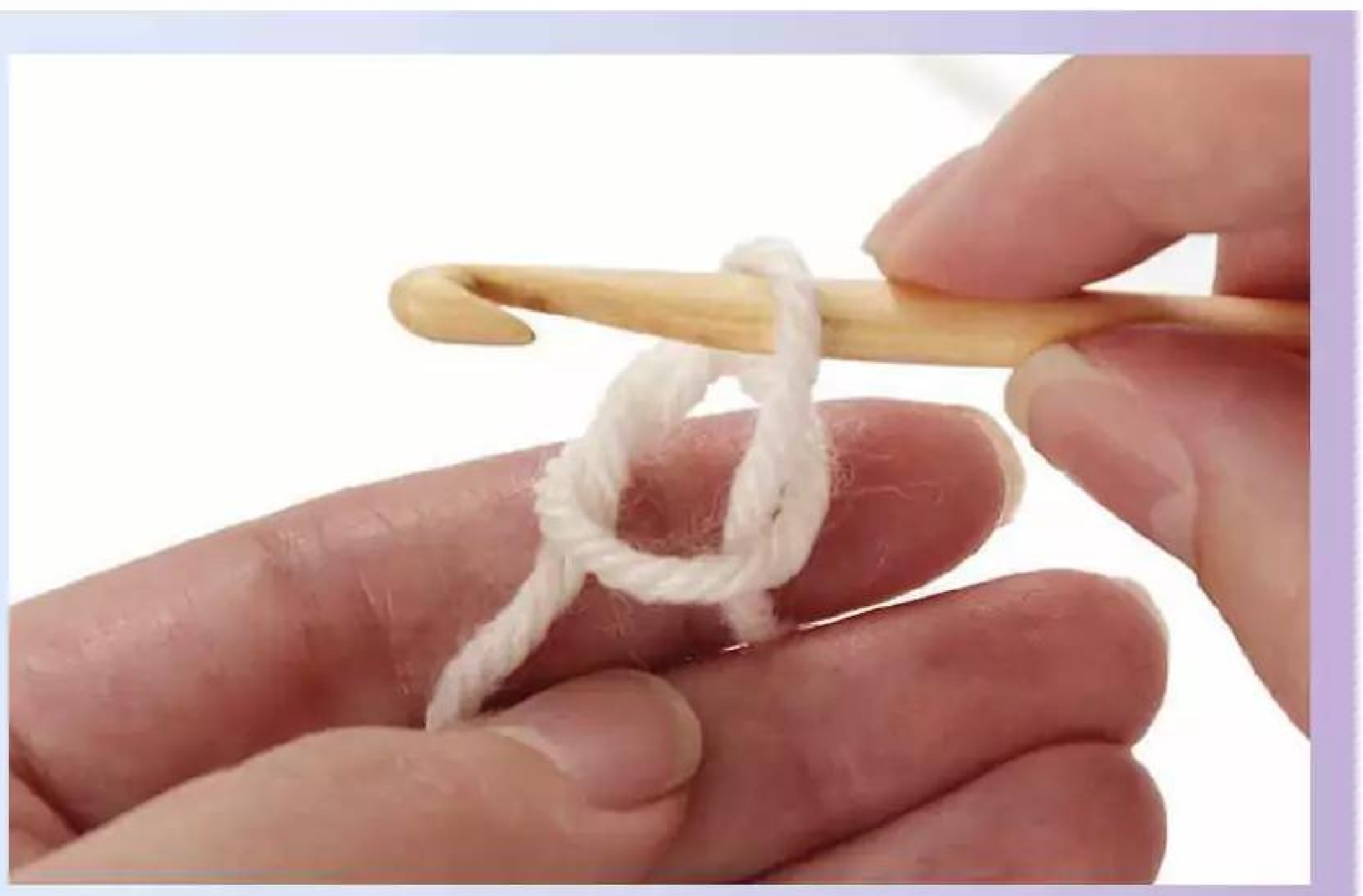
If you're right-handed, follow these instructions and photos...



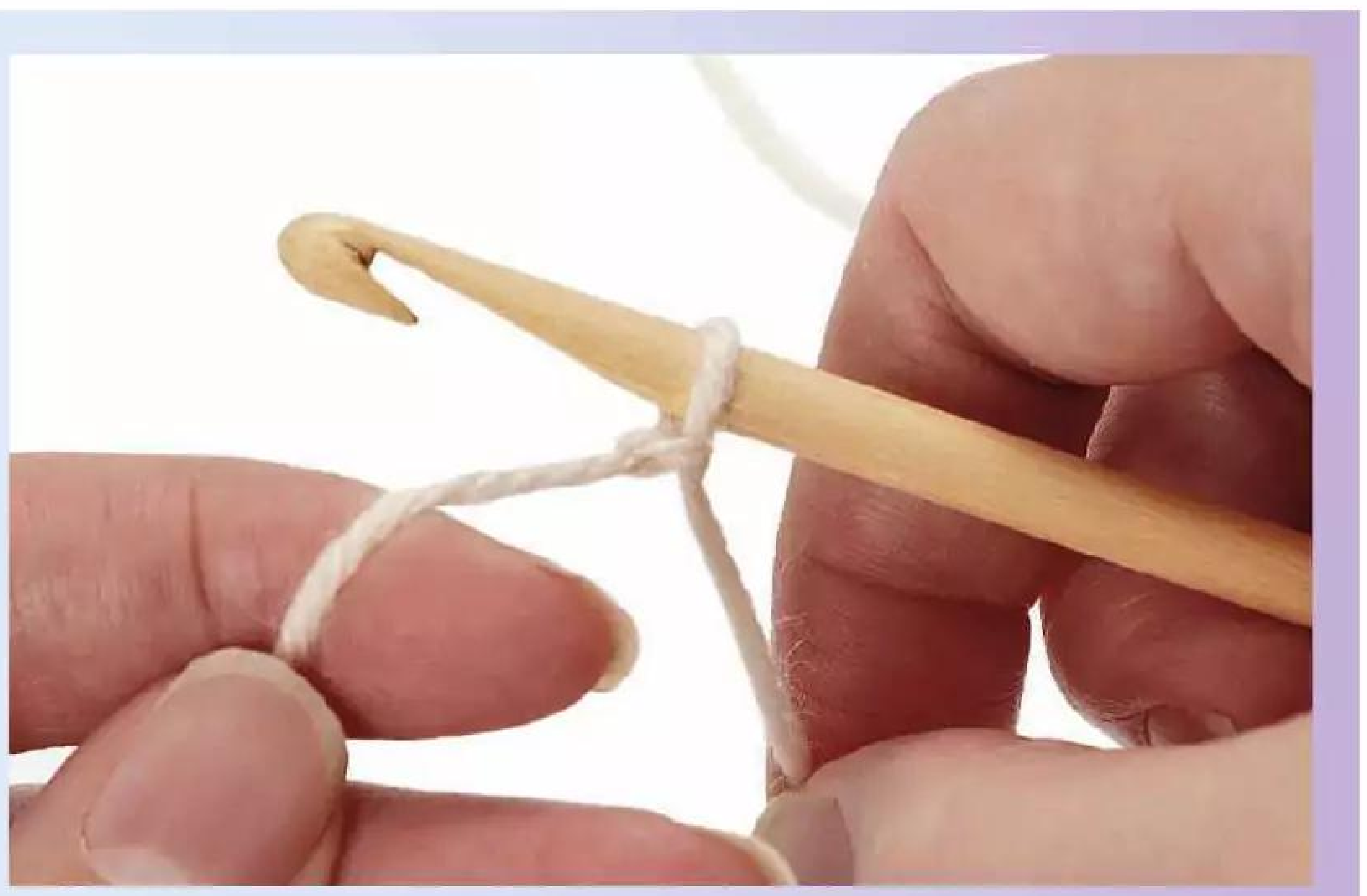
1 Hold the tail end of the yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it, to form a loop in a circle, as shown above.



2 Holding the loop between your left thumb and your index finger, insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



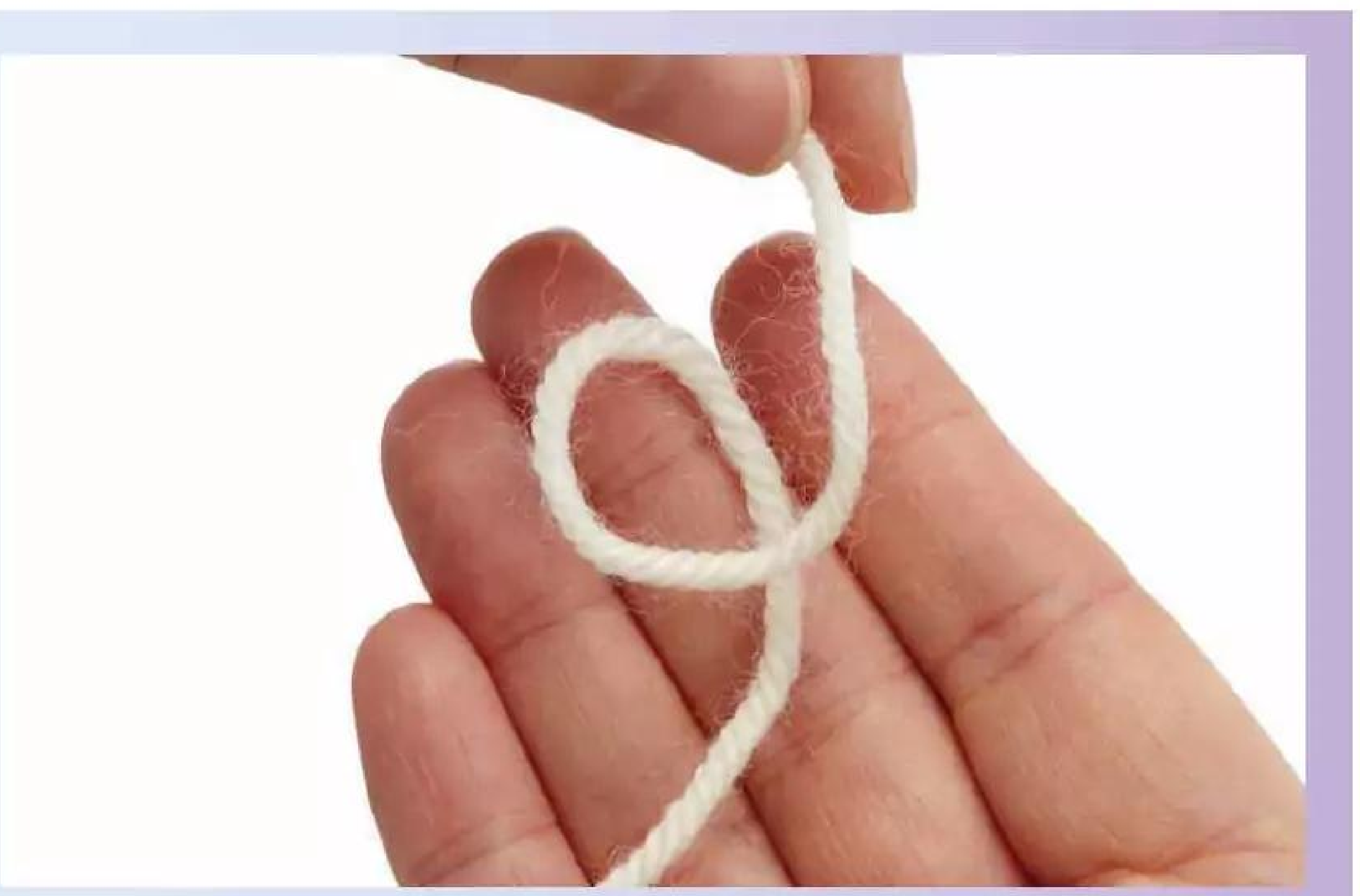
3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull the hook back through the centre of the loop, bringing the yarn with it.



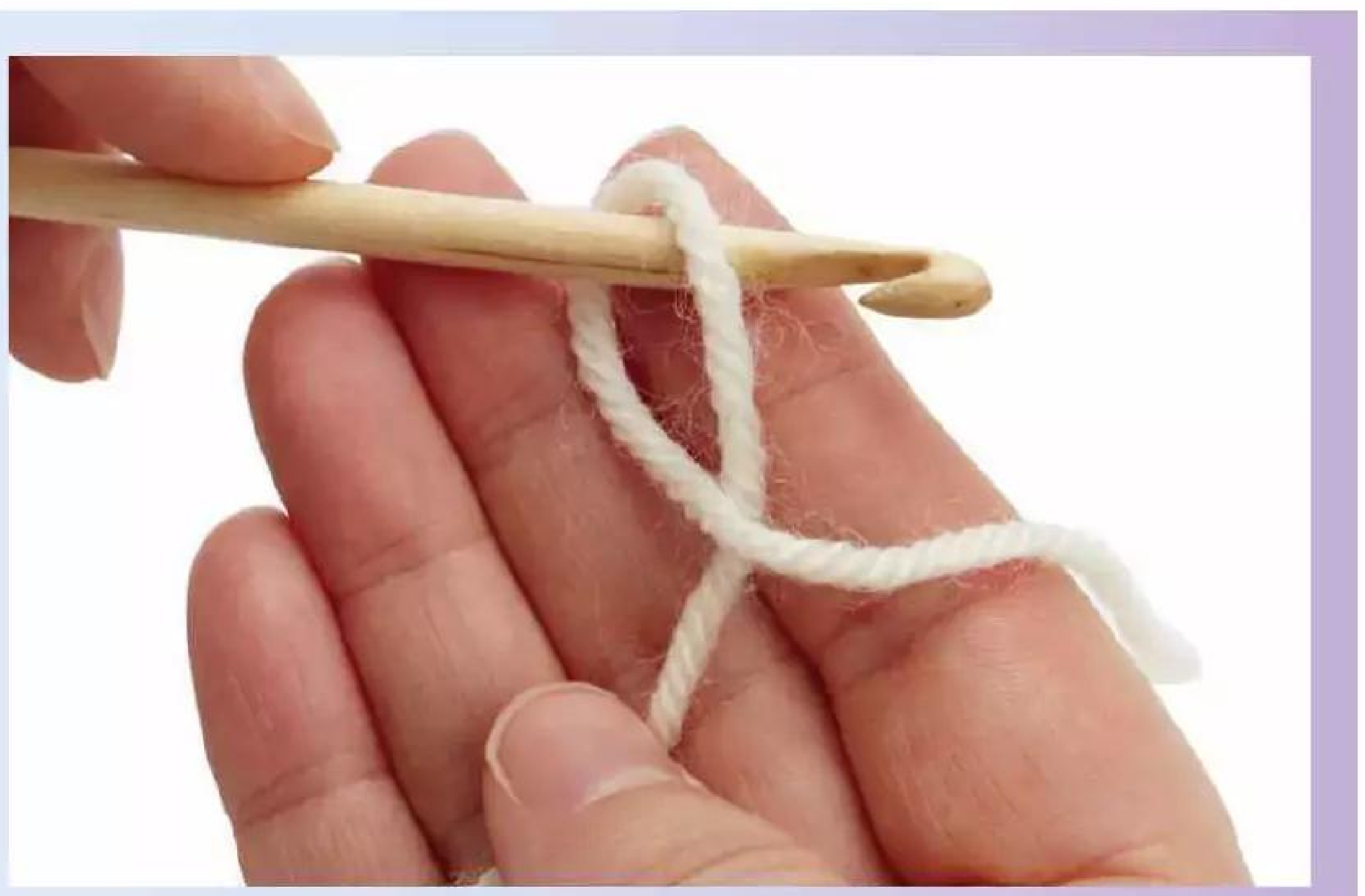
4 Pull both yarn ends until the knot comes up close to the hook. Then pull the ball end of yarn only to tighten the knot.

LEFT-HAND

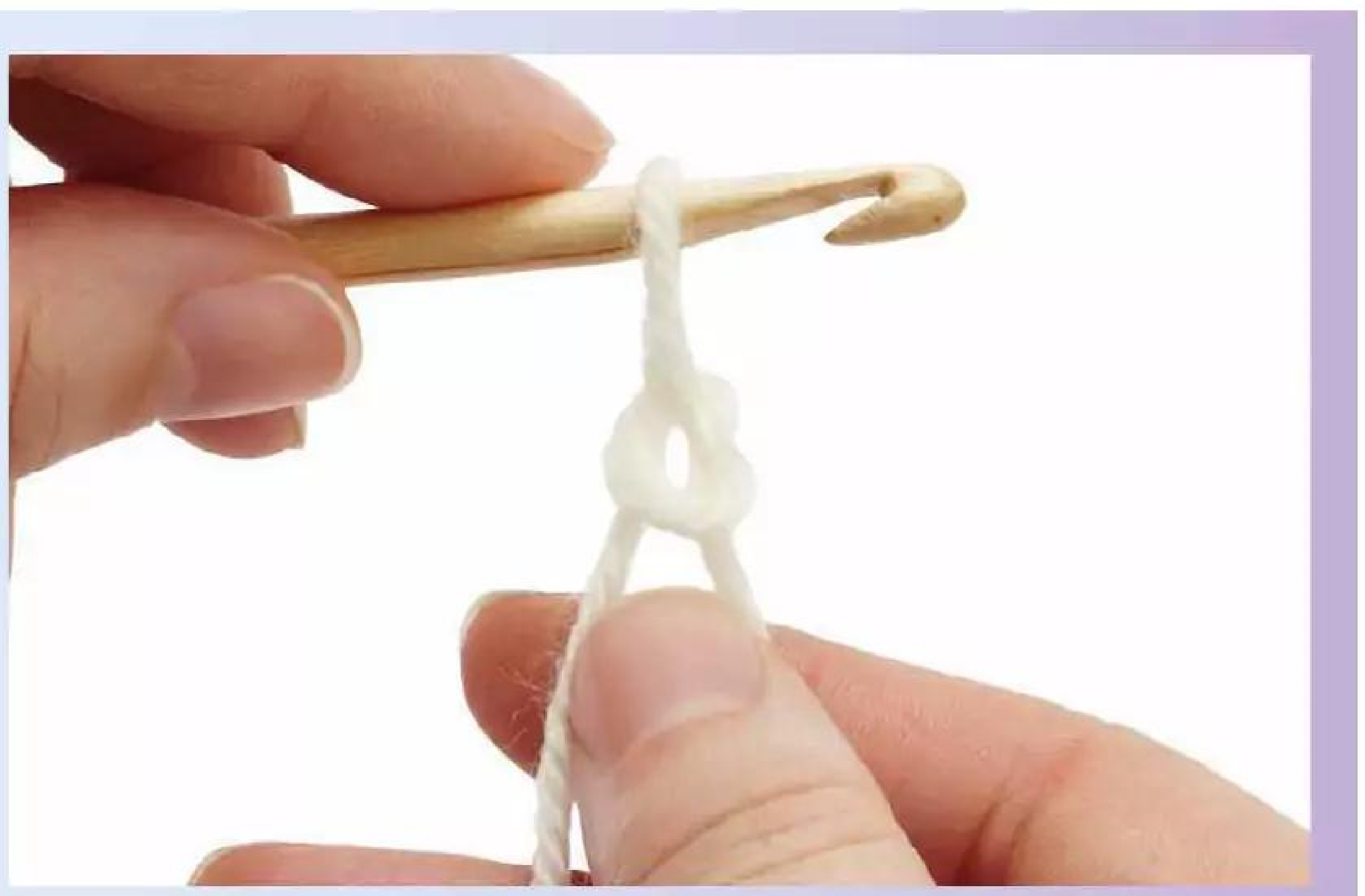
If you're left-handed, follow these instructions and photos…



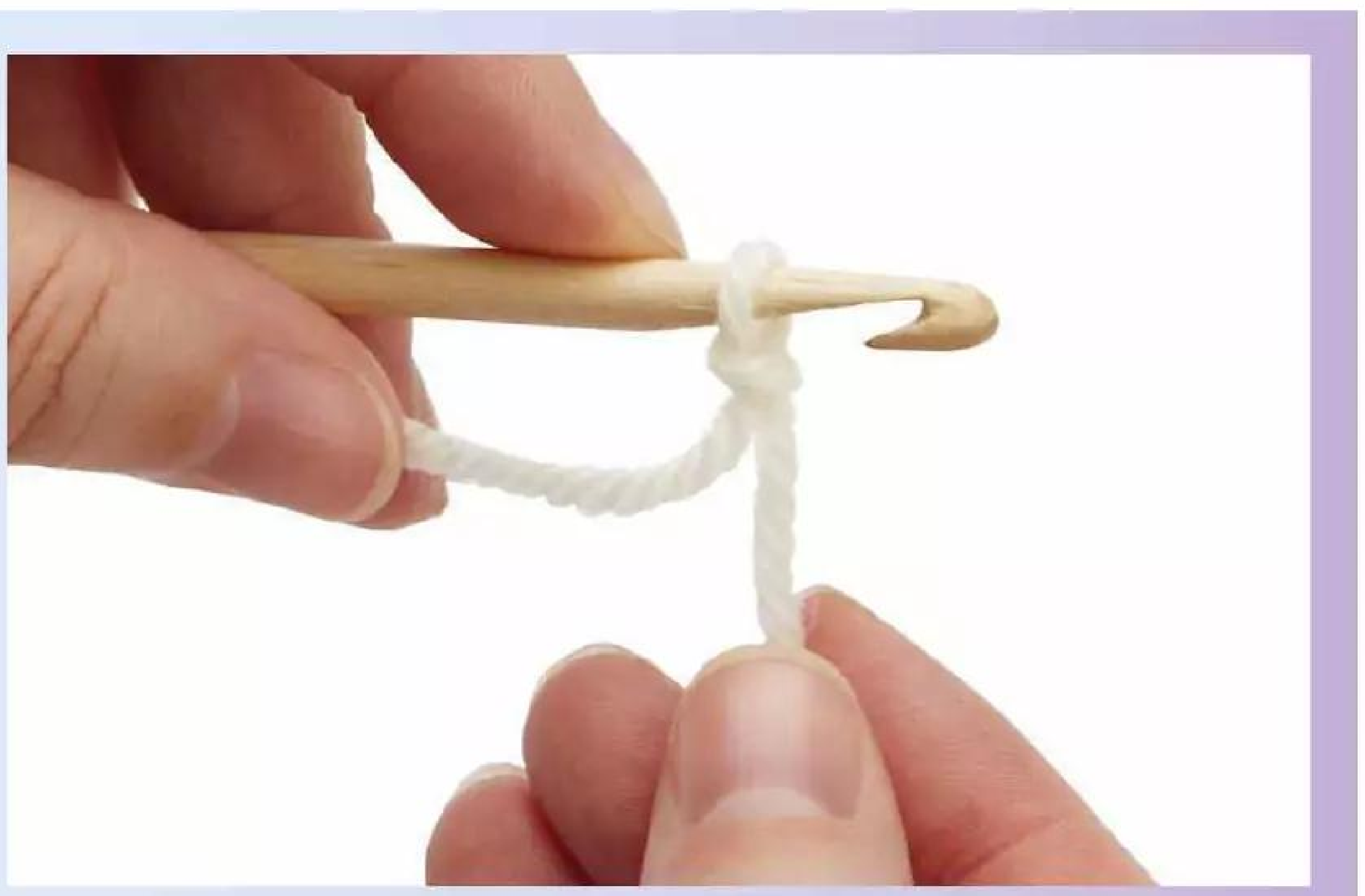
1 Hold the tail end of the yarn in your right hand and drape the yarn anticlockwise over the top of it, to form a loop in a circle, as shown above.



2 Holding the loop between your right thumb and your index finger, insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull the hook back through the centre of the loop, bringing the yarn with it.



4 Pull both yarn ends until the knot comes up close to the hook. Then pull the ball end of yarn only to tighten the knot.

OTHER METHODS

Feel free to use your own method to make a slipknot

The above method is just one way you can use to make a slipknot – there are plenty of other ways to do it, so if you have trouble with the method above and find that it doesn't work for you, don't give up! Just find a method that does.

Some crocheters prefer to wrap the yarn around the index finger and then pull a second loop of yarn through the loop on their finger. Other crocheters prefer to lay the yarn on a flat surface and form the looped structure here before inserting the hook. You can find step-by-step guides to these techniques, and many more, on the internet. Just type 'crochet slipknot' into any search engine to find various methods to try – you're bound to find one that will suit you.

However you make a slipknot, you just need to remember that you're making a loop, then pulling a second loop through the first loop, and then inserting the hook into the second loop. If you go wrong, it's simple to undo the slipknot – just remove the hook and pull on both ends of the yarn. You'll be left with knot-free yarn and you'll be free to try again.

Almost every crochet pattern starts with a slipknot, so it's important to practise the technique and become comfortable with it. In crochet, the only time you wouldn't need to make a slipknot is if you're asked to make a Magic Loop to work in the round. We'll have more on this on page 62.

HOLD YOUR YARN

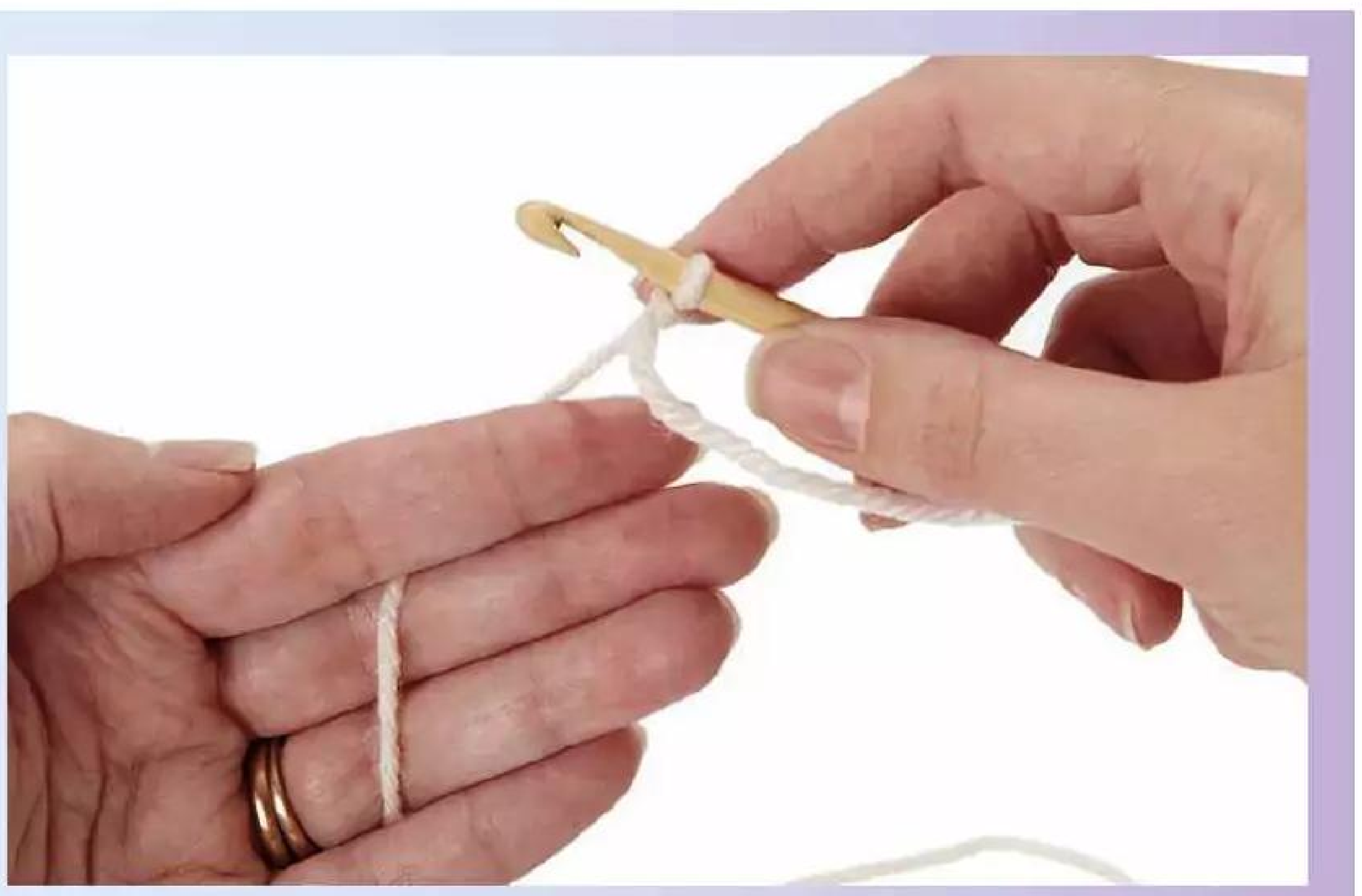
Practise weaving the yarn between your fingers

When you start to crochet, you'll quickly see that it's important to be able to work with an even tension in your work.

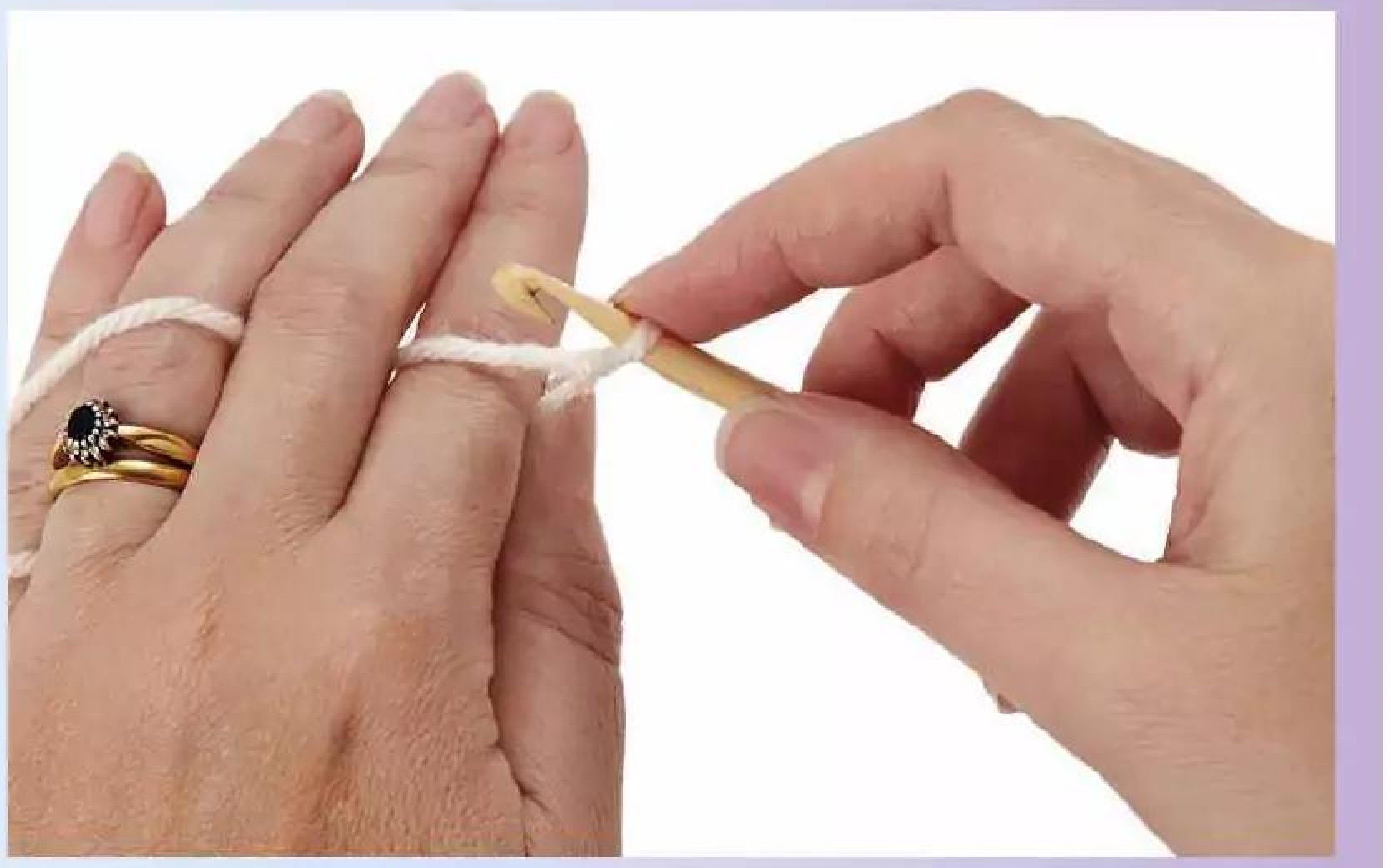
This means the yarn needs to be able to unwind easily from the ball while you're working with it. At the same time, the yarn needs to have enough tension for the hook to be able to pick it up easily when making the stitches.

For most crocheters, the easiest way to achieve this is to wind the yarn around your fingers in some way, so that you can both hold it firmly and release it slowly. If you're right-handed, weave the yarn around your left hand; if you're left-handed, weave the yarn around your right hand. We've suggested two methods here (shown below), but you can find your own, natural way of holding the yarn. You can check it results in an even tension by making test swatches and checking that the stitches are a similar size. On patterns, you will usually be given a tension to match.

RIGHT-HAND

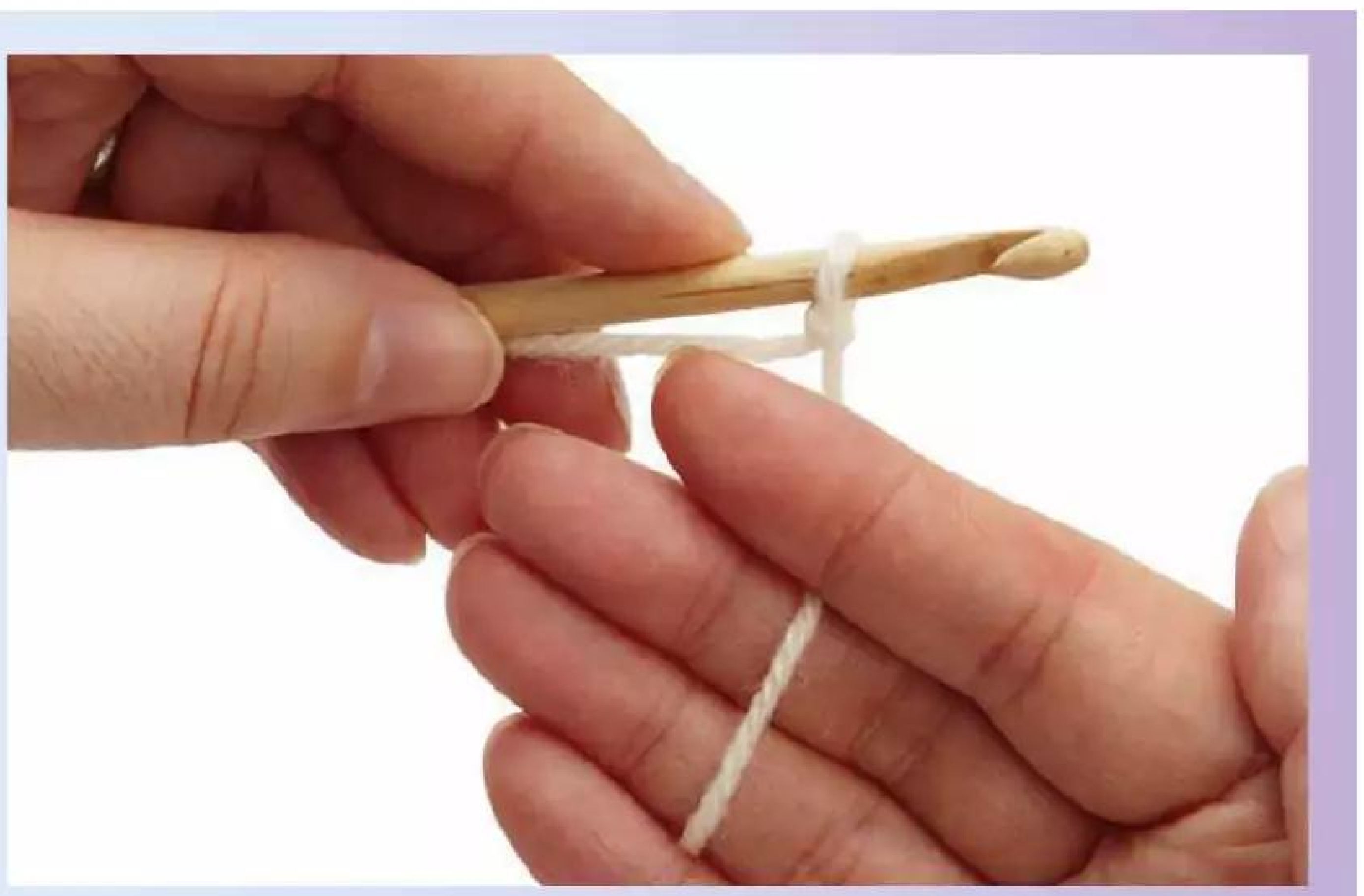


1 Pass the ball end of yarn between the little and third finger of your left hand. Pass it behind the third and middle fingers and over your index finger.

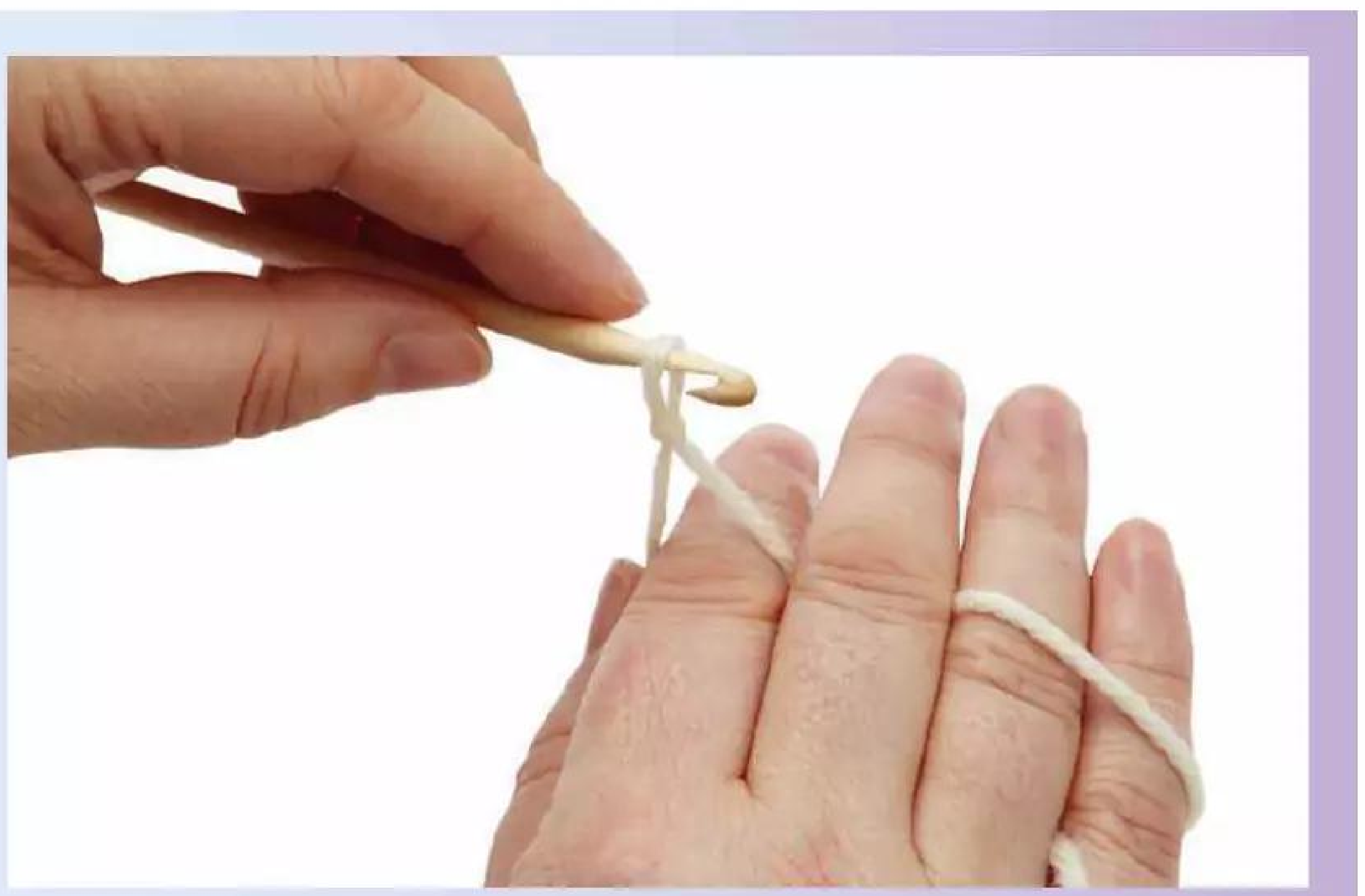


2 Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand, then take it under your middle finger and over your index finger.

LEFT-HAND



1 Pass the ball end of yarn between the little and third finger of your right hand. Pass it behind the third and middle fingers and over your index finger.



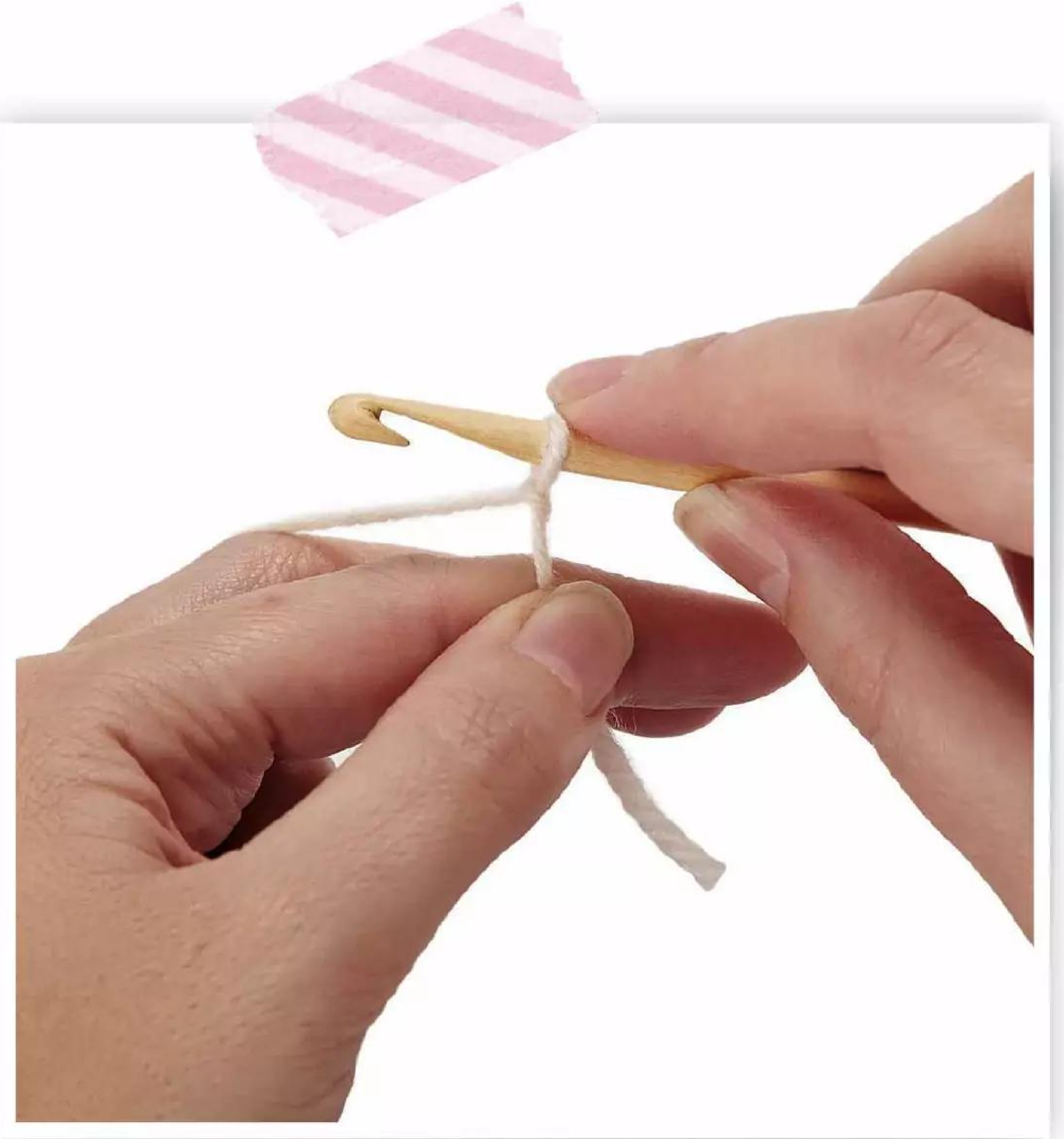
2 Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your right hand, then take it under your middle finger and over your index finger.

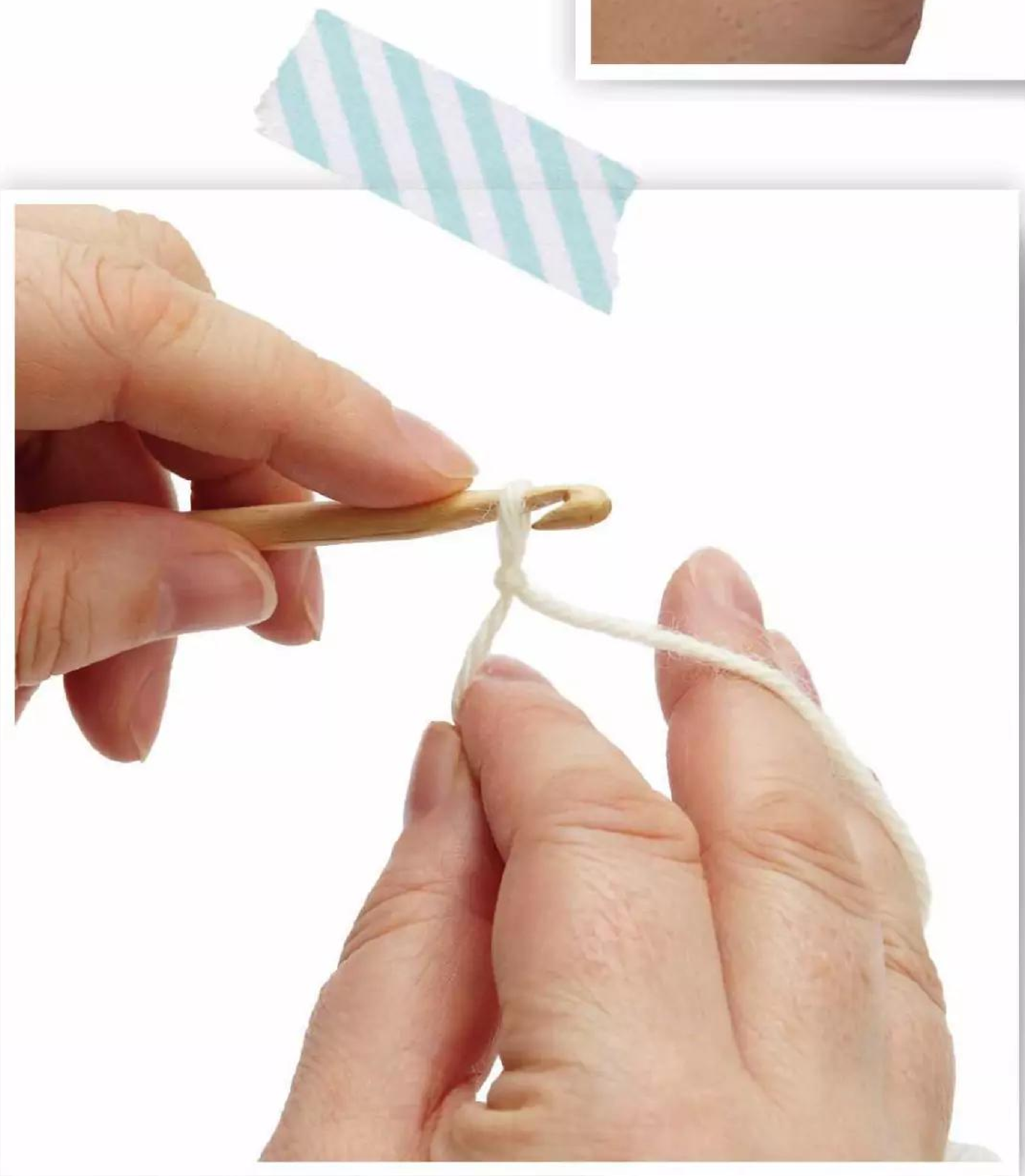
CONTROL THE YARN

How best to control the loop on the hook

RIGHT-HAND

While you're crocheting, you will need to control the crochet loop with the same hand as the one that's holding the yarn. When making your first chain stitches (see overleaf), right-handers should hold the tail end of the yarn firmly between the thumb and index finger of your left hand, or the thumb and middle finger. Doing this enables you to control the position of the working loop on the hook as the hook moves in and out of the working loop. The hook should be around 3-5cm from the index finger of your right hand when you are crocheting.





LEFT-HAND

While you're crocheting, you will need to control the crochet loop with the same hand as the one that's holding the yarn. When making your first chain stitches (see overleaf), left-handers should hold the tail end of the yarn firmly between the thumb and index finger of your right hand, or the thumb and middle finger. Doing this enables you to control the position of the working loop on the hook as the hook moves in and out of the working loop. The hook should be around 3-5cm from the index finger of your left hand when you're crocheting.

CHAIN STITCH

Create a foundation chain to work stitches into

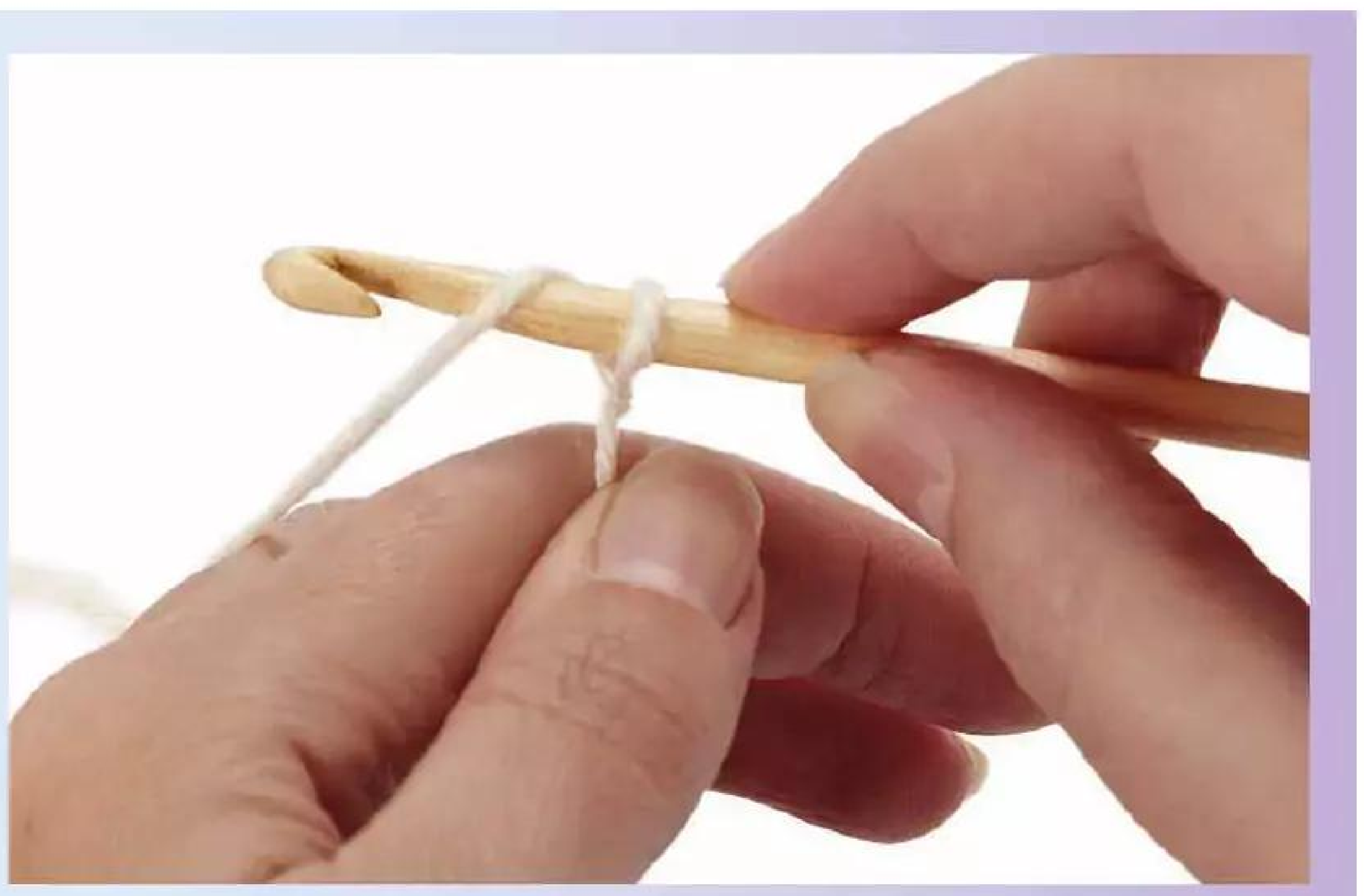
One of the most important techniques you need to learn in crochet is making chain stitches. No matter what crochet project you're working on, you will always need to make chains. Fortunately, they're also the easiest stitch to work in crochet.

Follow our guide (below and right) to make chain stitches, which are also called chains or a chain length. Practise the technique by making a length of about 20 chains (don't count the slipknot as a stitch). Hold the stitches firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go.

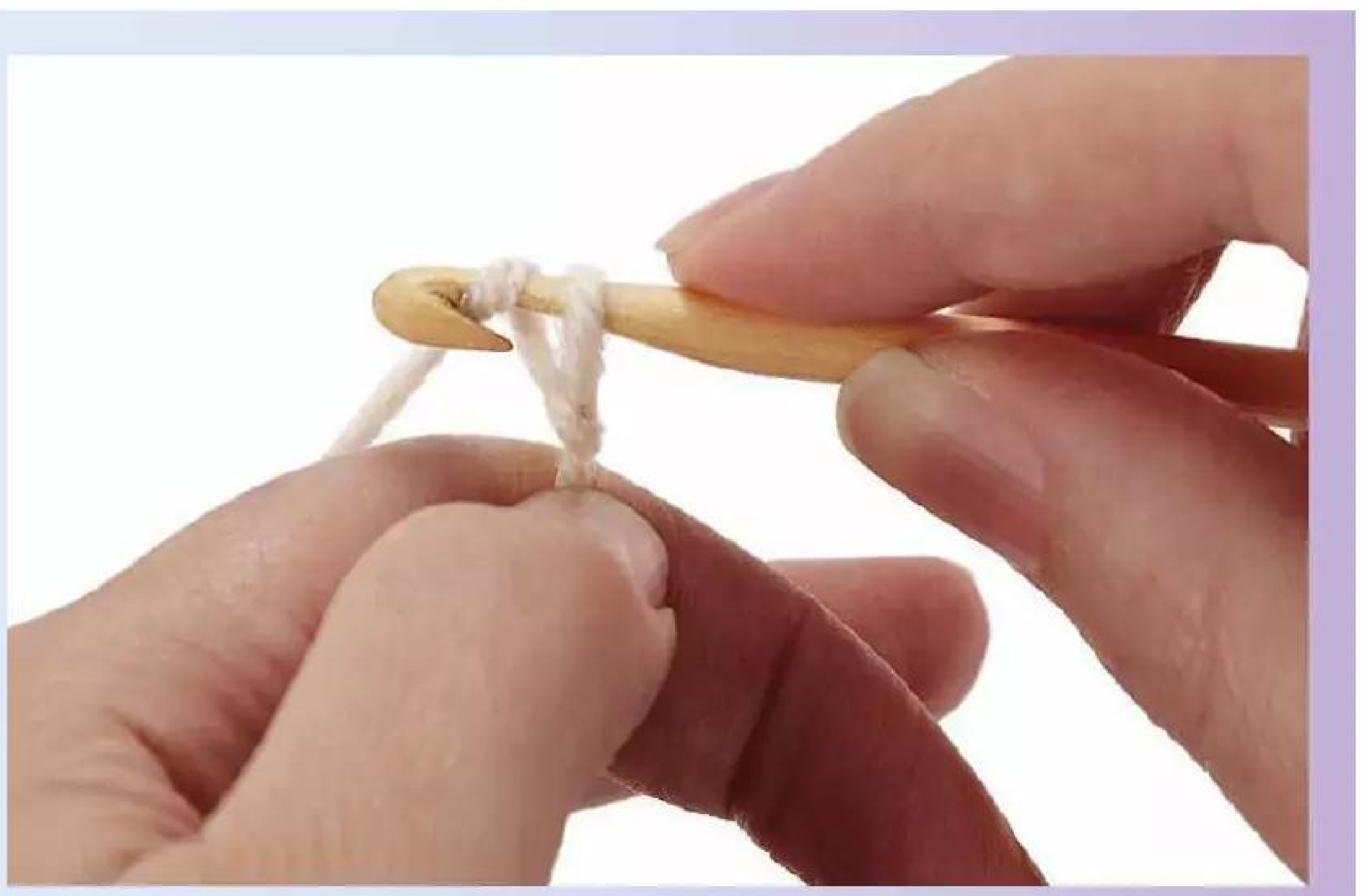
Keep making short chains like this until you can make chain stitches that are even in size and shape, and the whole process feels quite natural. Don't worry if your chains look a bit uneven when you first give it a try. Practice makes perfect, so just pull all the yarn off the hook and have another go!

RIGHT-HAND

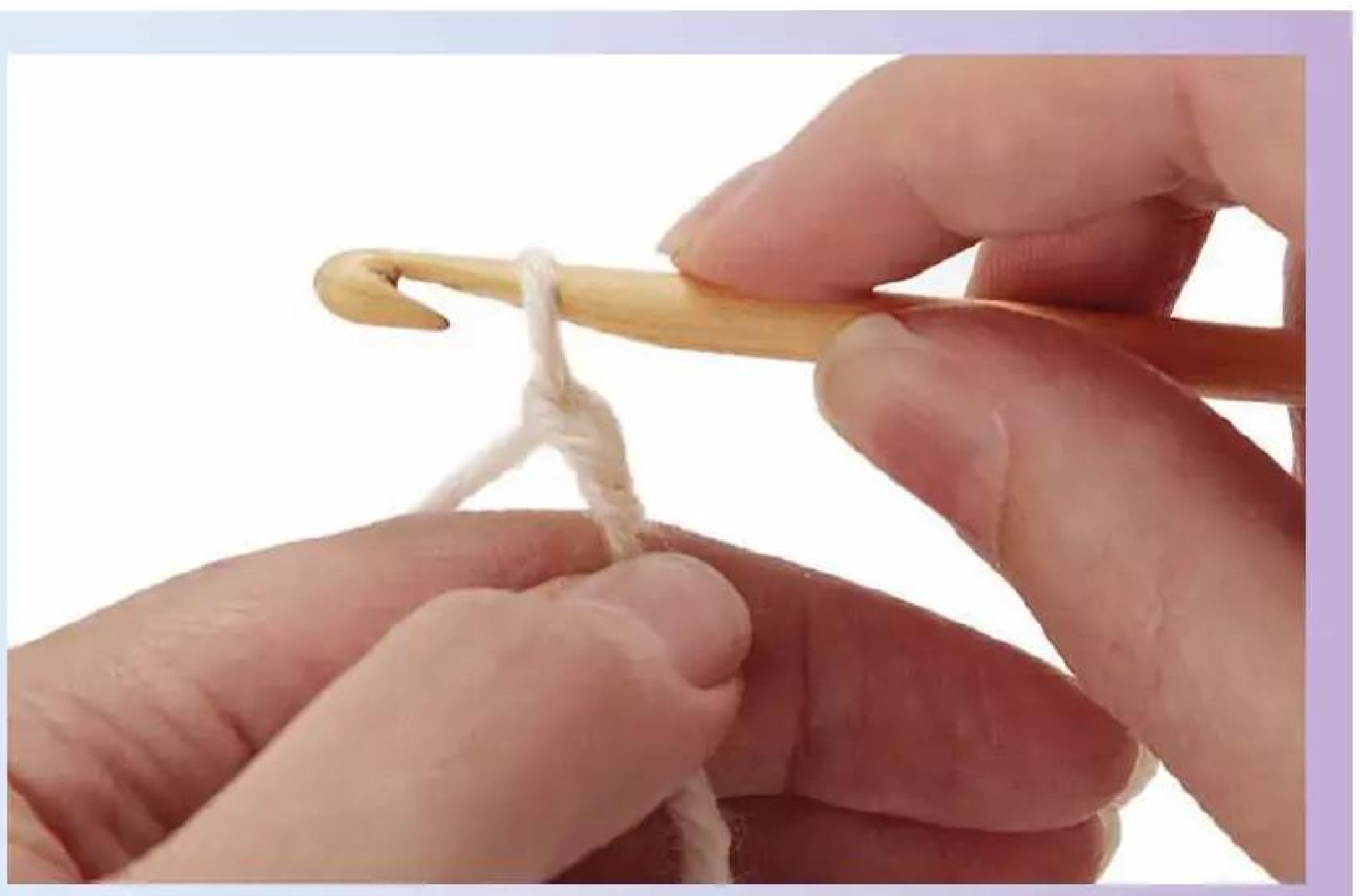
If you're right-handed, follow these instructions and photos…



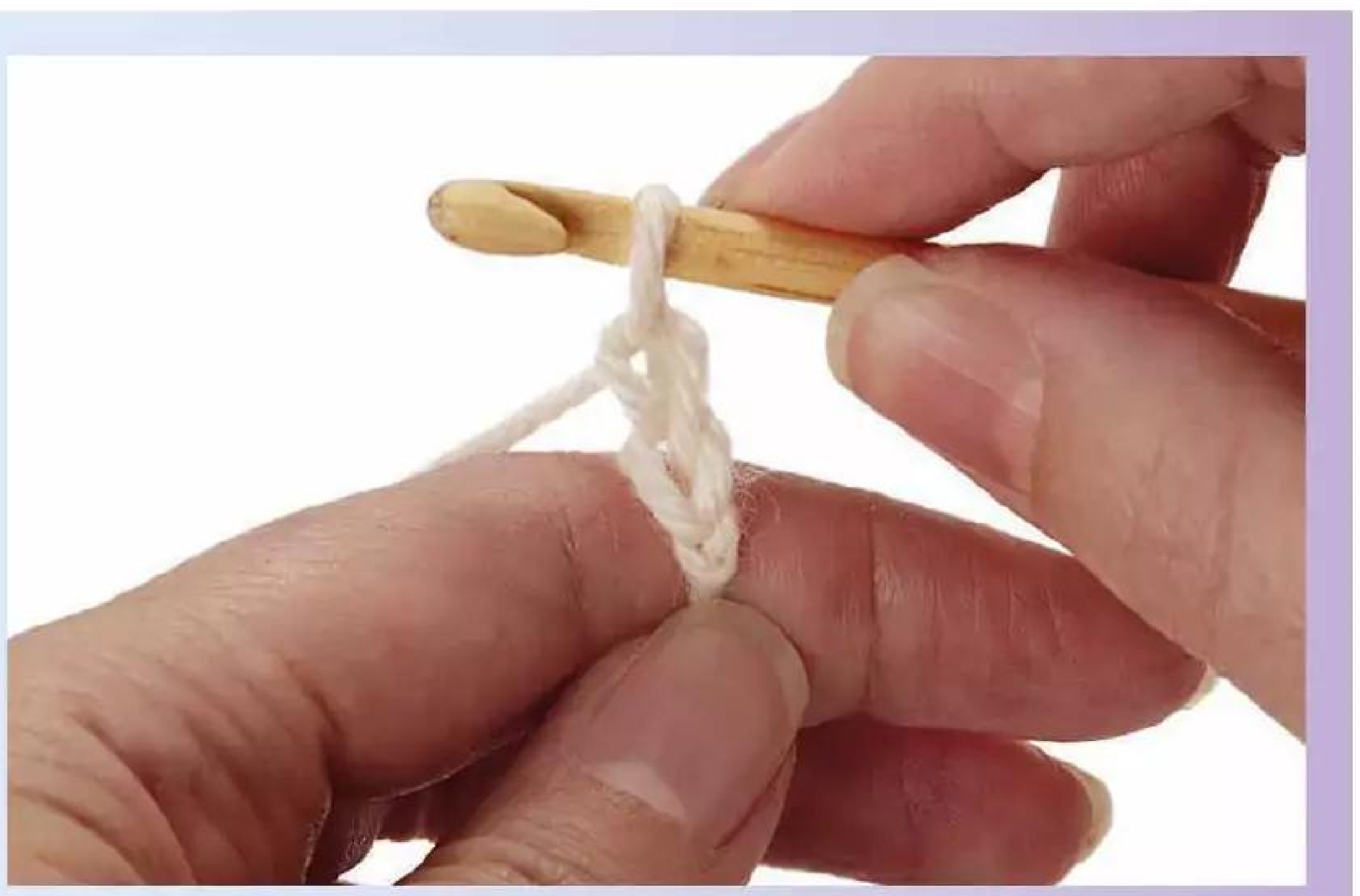
1 With a slipknot on your hook, catch the ball end of yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps around it anticlockwise. This action is called 'yarn round hook' or 'yrh'.



2 Gently pull the hook, and the yarn wrapped around it, back towards the loop on the hook.



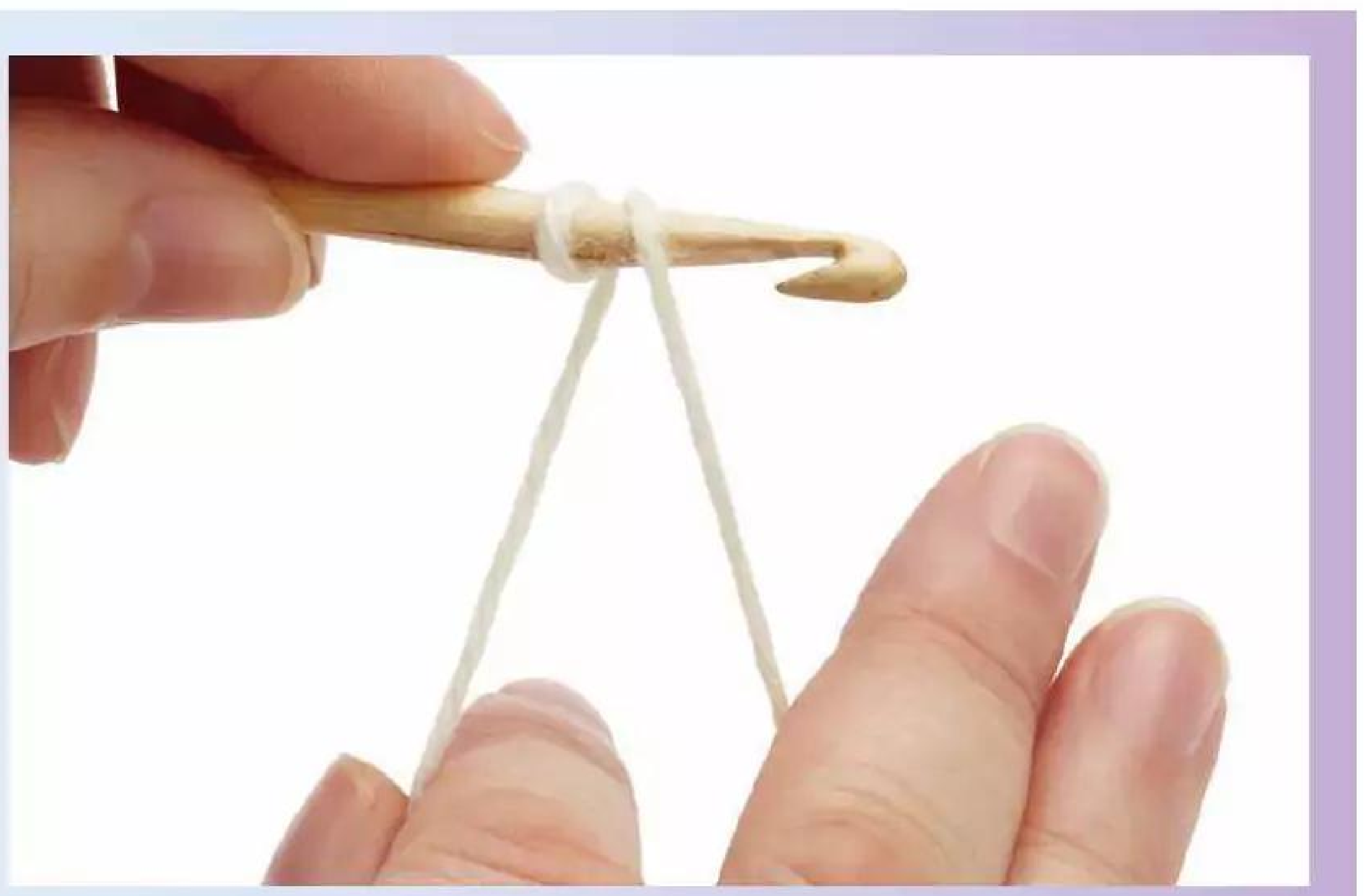
3 Pull the hook and yarn through the first loop, to make a new loop on the hook. Congratulations, this is your first chain stitch.



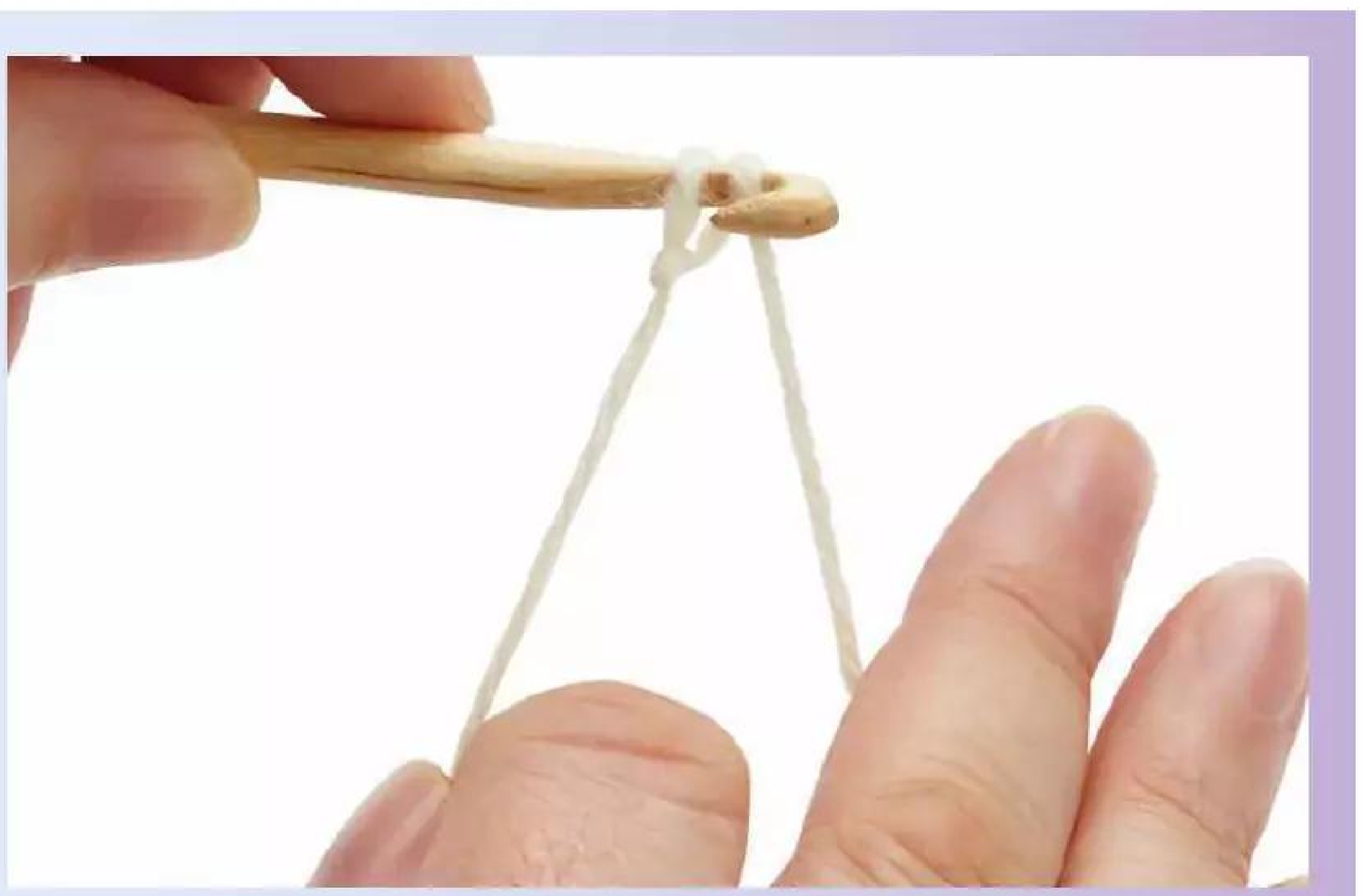
4 Tighten up the slipknot (to make sure you don't count it as a stitch). Repeat steps 1-3 until you're happy with the technique.

LEFT-HAND

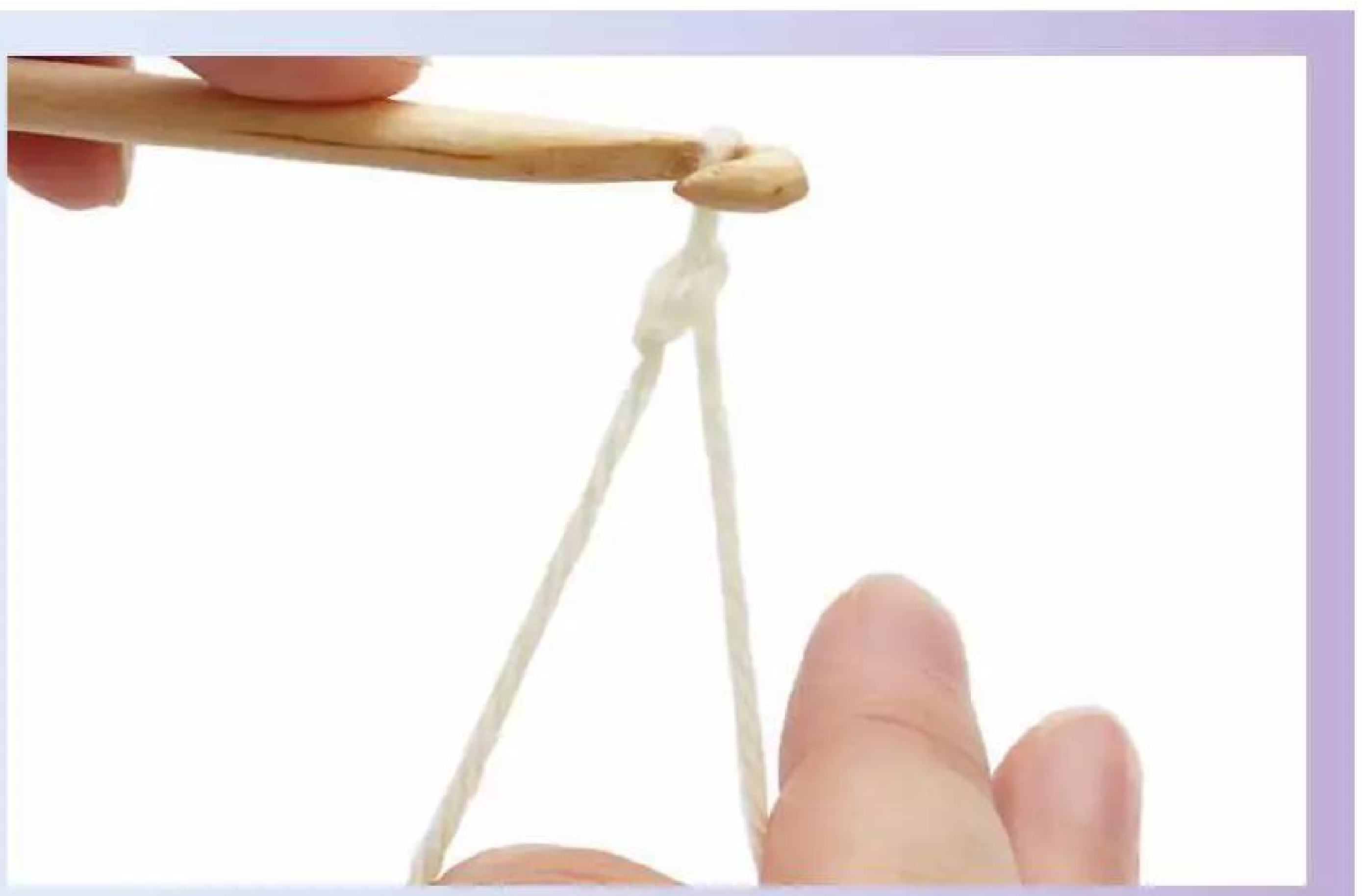
If you're left-handed, follow these instructions and photos...



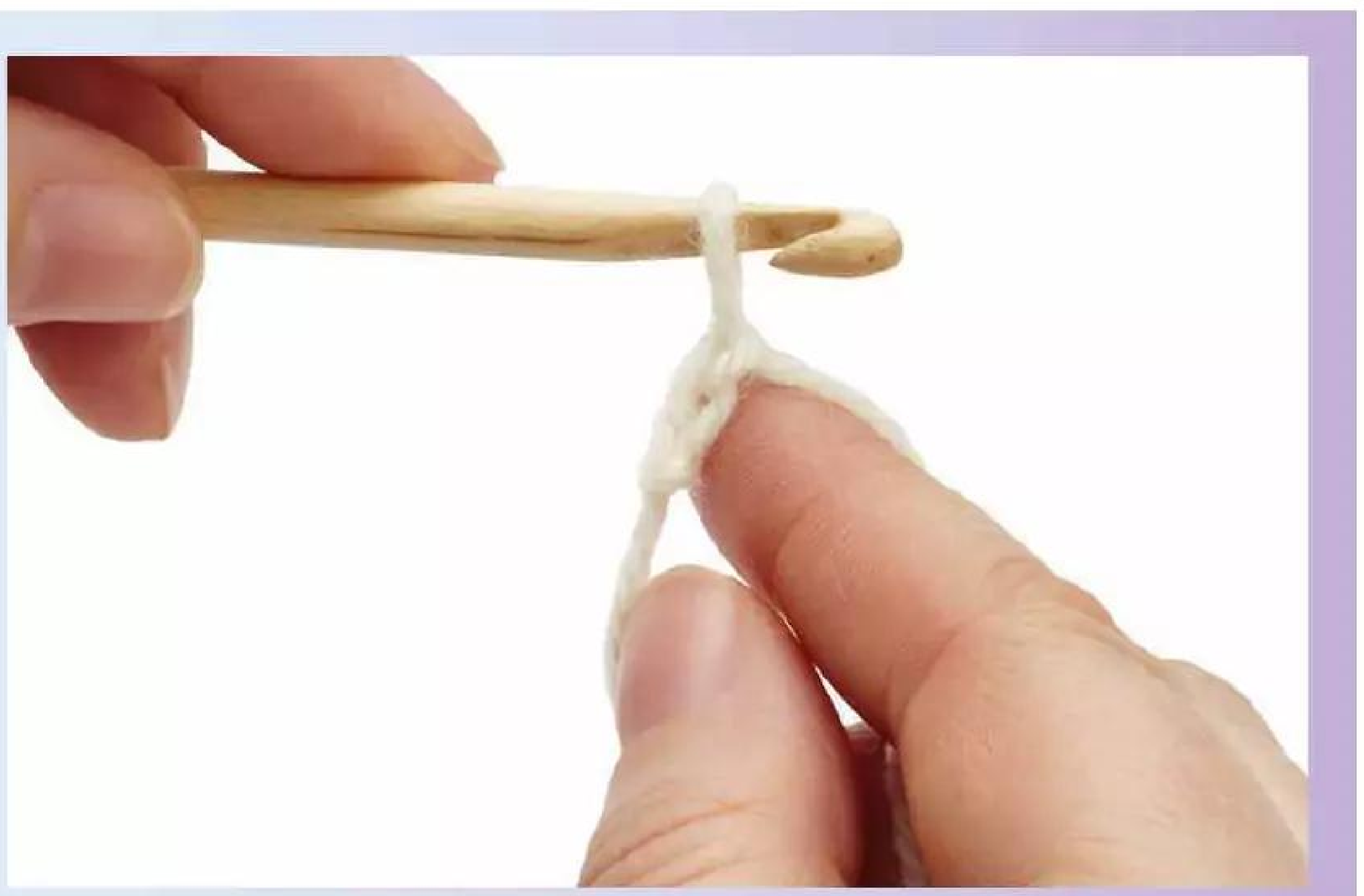
1 With a slipknot on your hook, catch the ball end of yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps around it anticlockwise. This action is called 'yarn round hook' or 'yrh'.



2 Gently pull the hook, and the yarn wrapped around it, back towards the loop on the hook.



3 Pull the hook and yarn through the first loop, to make a new loop on the hook. Congratulations, this is your first chain stitch.



4 Tighten up the slipknot (to make sure you don't count it as a stitch). Repeat steps 1-3 until you're happy with the technique.

FOUNDATION CHAINS

The key way to start off your crocheting

You'll use chain stitches in various places when you're crocheting, but one of the key areas is to make foundation chains. For most crochet projects, you'll start off by making a length of chain stitches, which is called a foundation chain. You'll then need to work your crochet stitches back along the chain length to create your first row of stitches – add more rows of stitches and you'll make crochet fabric! The original chain length is called a foundation chain because it's the foundation of your project.

Right-hand
Left-hand

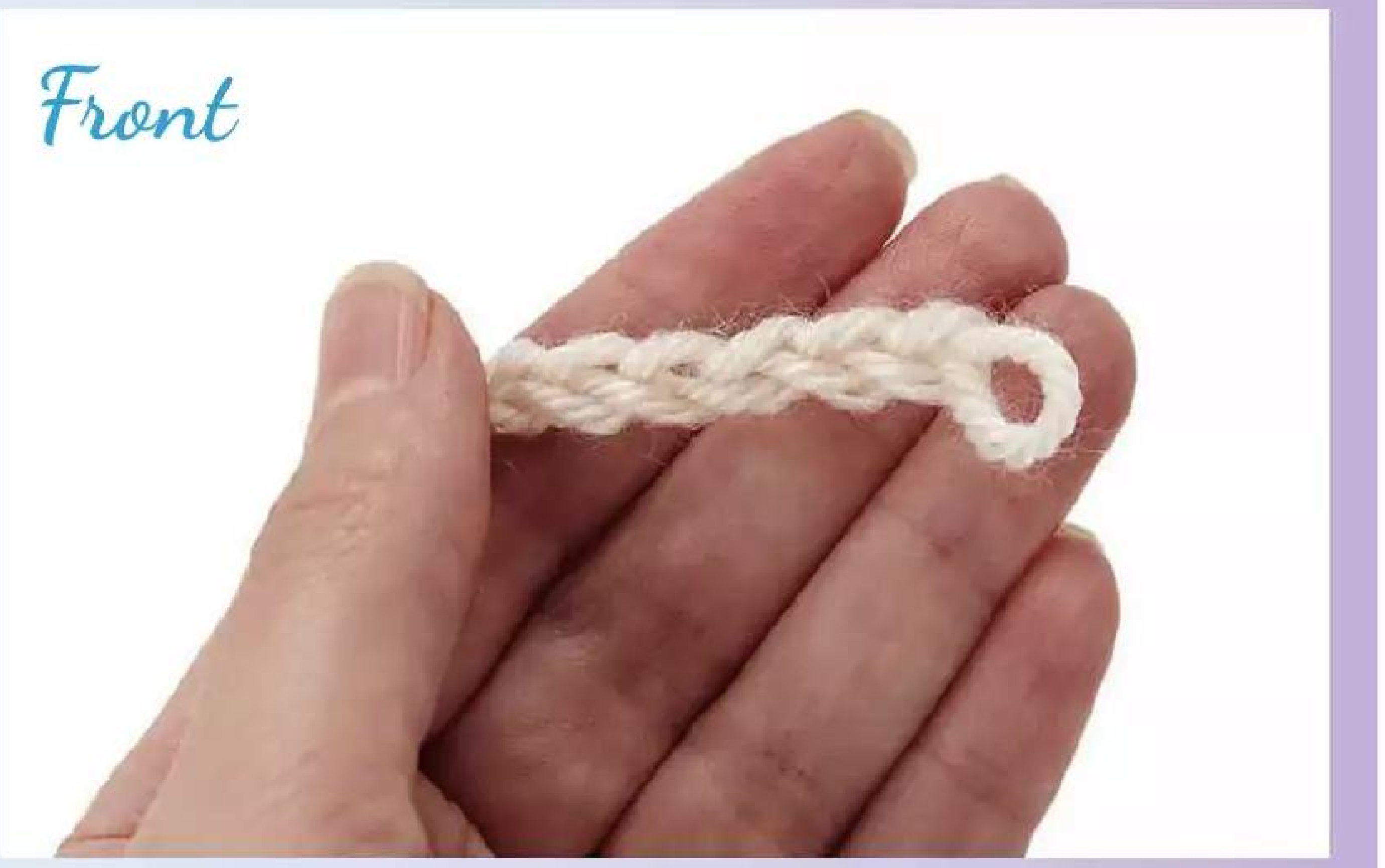
CHAIN ANATOMY

Get to know your chain length and start counting

Once you can make chains, it's a good idea to get to know your chain length better. To be able to work stitches into a chain length, or follow a crochet pattern, you need to be able to count your chains and understand which part of the chain is which. Once you can do this, the world of crochet patterns will be your oyster! You'll see below that the front of a chain length has a neat series of v-shaped stitches (see below left), while the back has a row of bumps along the row of chains. You can either work your crochet stitches into the front or back of the chain length (we'll have more about this on page 33 as each has advantages and disadvantages).

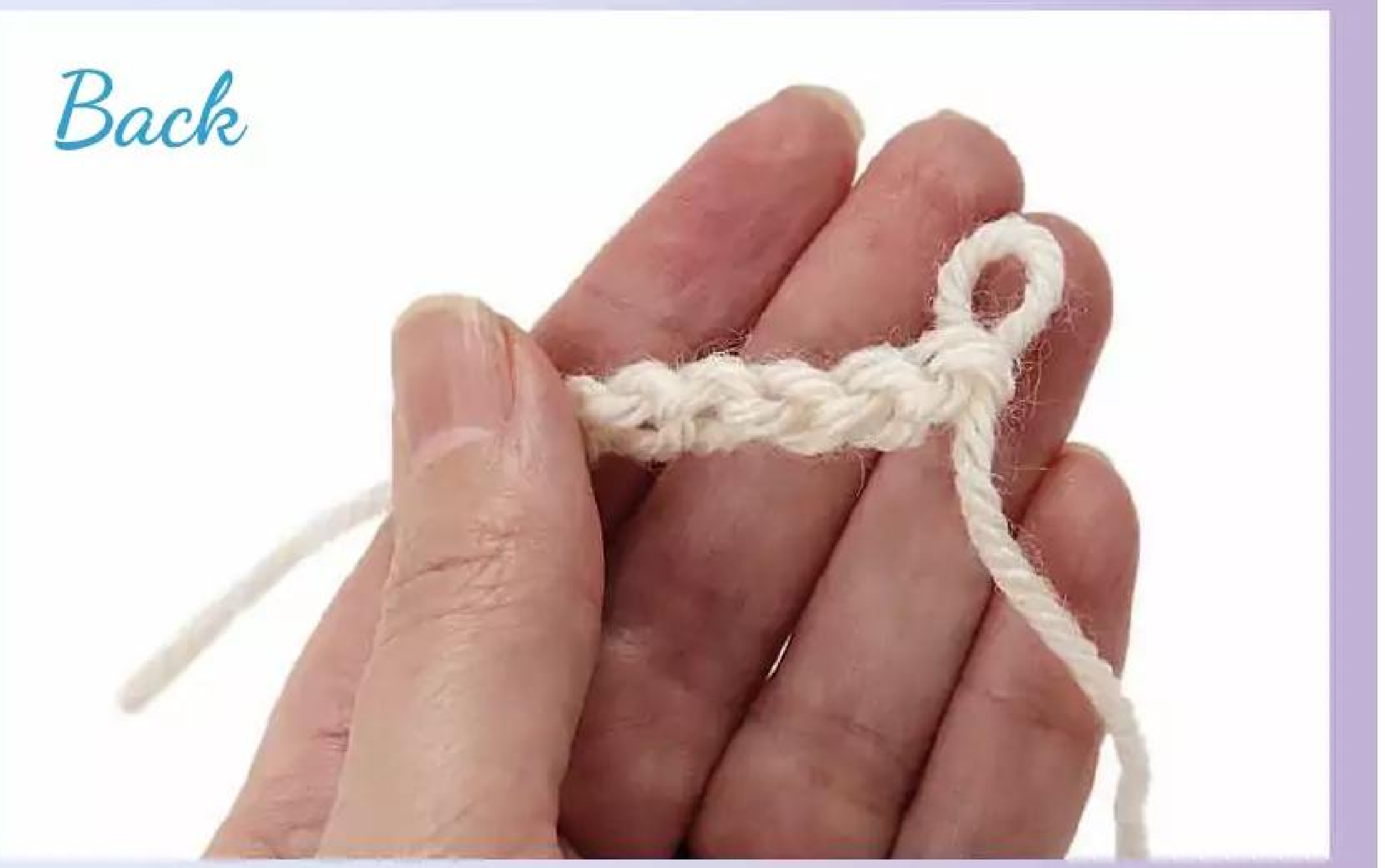
When you're crocheting from a pattern, you'll often be instructed to make a certain number of chains, so you'll need to be able to count them. Follow our guide below to counting each chain stitch, ignoring the slipknot and the working loop. When you count chain stitches, have the front-side facing you.

Front



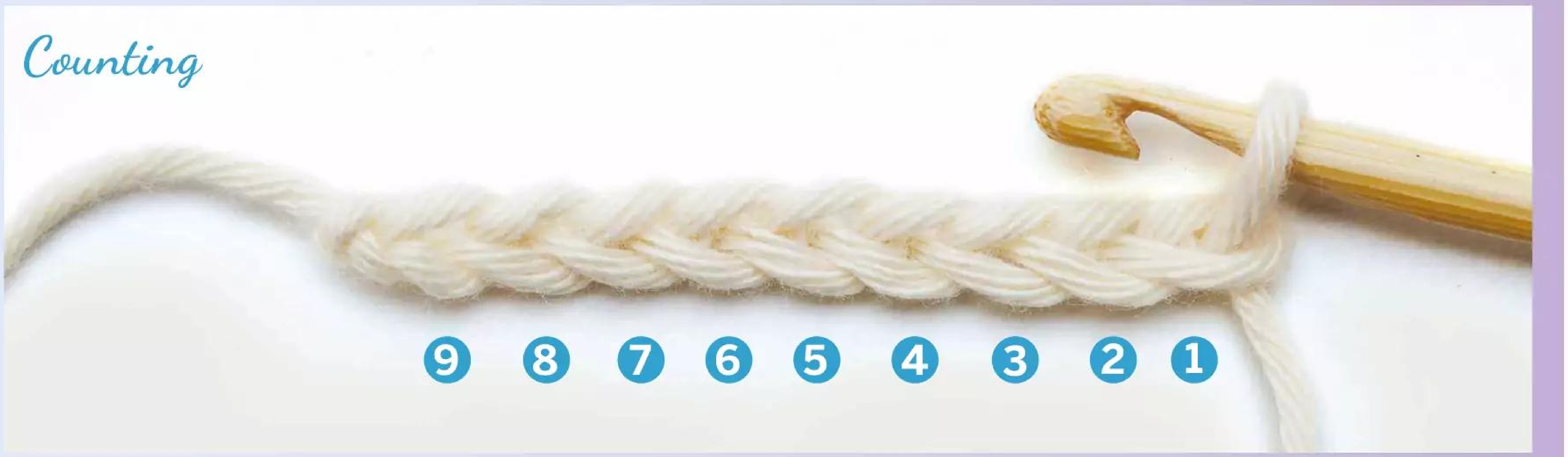
Here you can see the front of a chain – you'll see that it looks like a plait. Have your chain this way round to count the stitches. Stitches can be worked into the centre of each chain stitch.

Back



The back of a chain has a row of bumps down the centre of the length. Sometimes it's easier to crochet stitches into each bump on the back of the chain, rather than the front of each chain.

Counting



When you're counting a chain length, make sure you don't count the slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). You can count in either direction, but most crocheters prefer to count backwards from the hook towards the slipknot. Each 'v' shape in the yarn counts as one chain stitch. Make sure that the chain isn't twisted and that the front is facing you. As you can see, there are nine chain stitches in the length above.

CHAIN STITCH NECKLACE

Make versatile jewellery with easy lengths of simple chain stitches. By **Sara Huntington**

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Rico Essentials Crochet Print (100% cotton, 50g/280m) 1 ball of Red Mix (002)
- Rico Essentials Crochet Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/280m) 1 ball of each:
  Red (004)
  Pink (029)
  Pastel Pink (028)

HOOK

- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook

NOTIONS

- 2 end caps, 1cm size
- Super glue
- 2 lengths of linked metal chain with fastenings

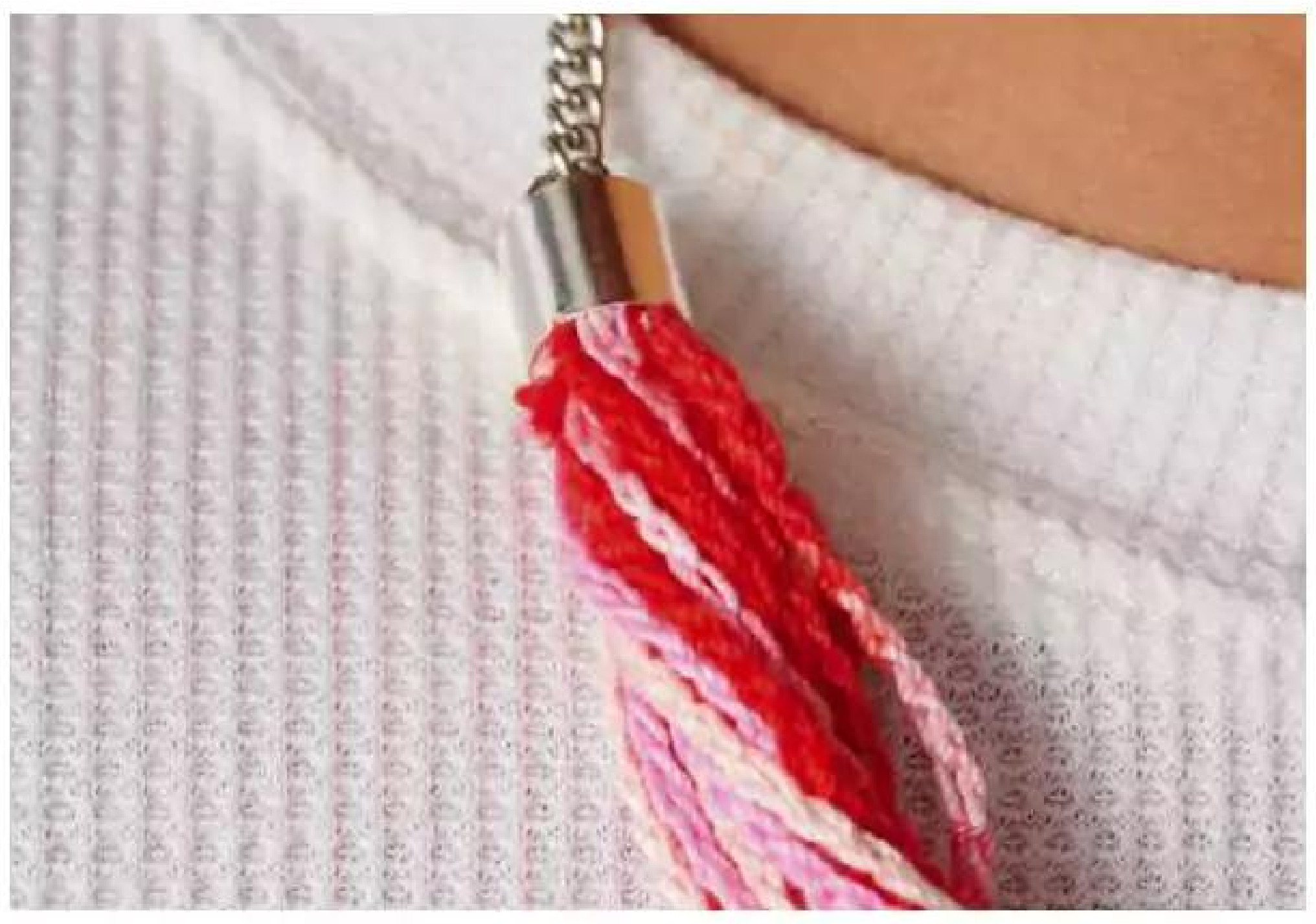
TENSION AND SIZE

Tension is not critical for this project. Necklace measures approx 52cm (20½in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 18

Great first project – easy and fun!



Crocheting all the strands of pretty chains is a fab way to practise getting your chain loops even!

NOTES

Necklace is worked in multiple lengths of chains which are secured into the jewellery end caps.

If you don't want to use end caps, you could simply work several chains to the length you desire and secure them with a slip stitch, or twist them and sew the ends together.

NECKLACE

CHAINS (MAKE 24)

In each shade, make 6 lengths of chain approx 90 stitches or measuring 32cm long.

TO MAKE UP

Block the chain lengths (see p131) to help them lie flat, and let them dry.

Place the chain lengths alongside each other and trim the ends.

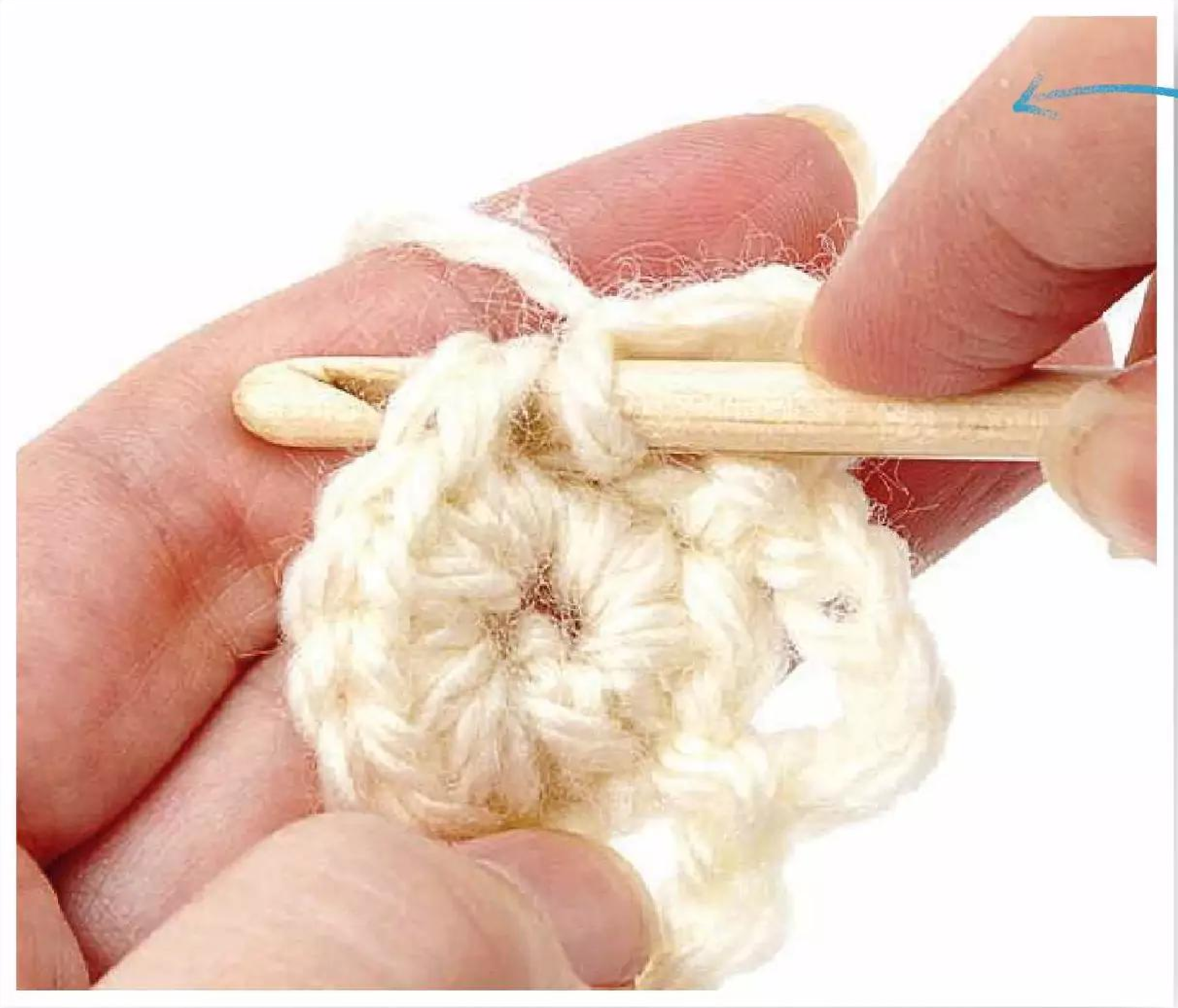
Carefully apply glue inside one of the end caps and insert all the ends of the chains at once, using a crochet hook to push them gently inside the cap. Slightly twist the chain lengths and repeat process on the other end with the second end cap. Leave to dry.

Attach 10cm (or length required) of linked metal chain with fastening to each end cap.

SLIP STITCH

A handy technique that's not often used as a stitch!

B 2.25mm
CLOVER

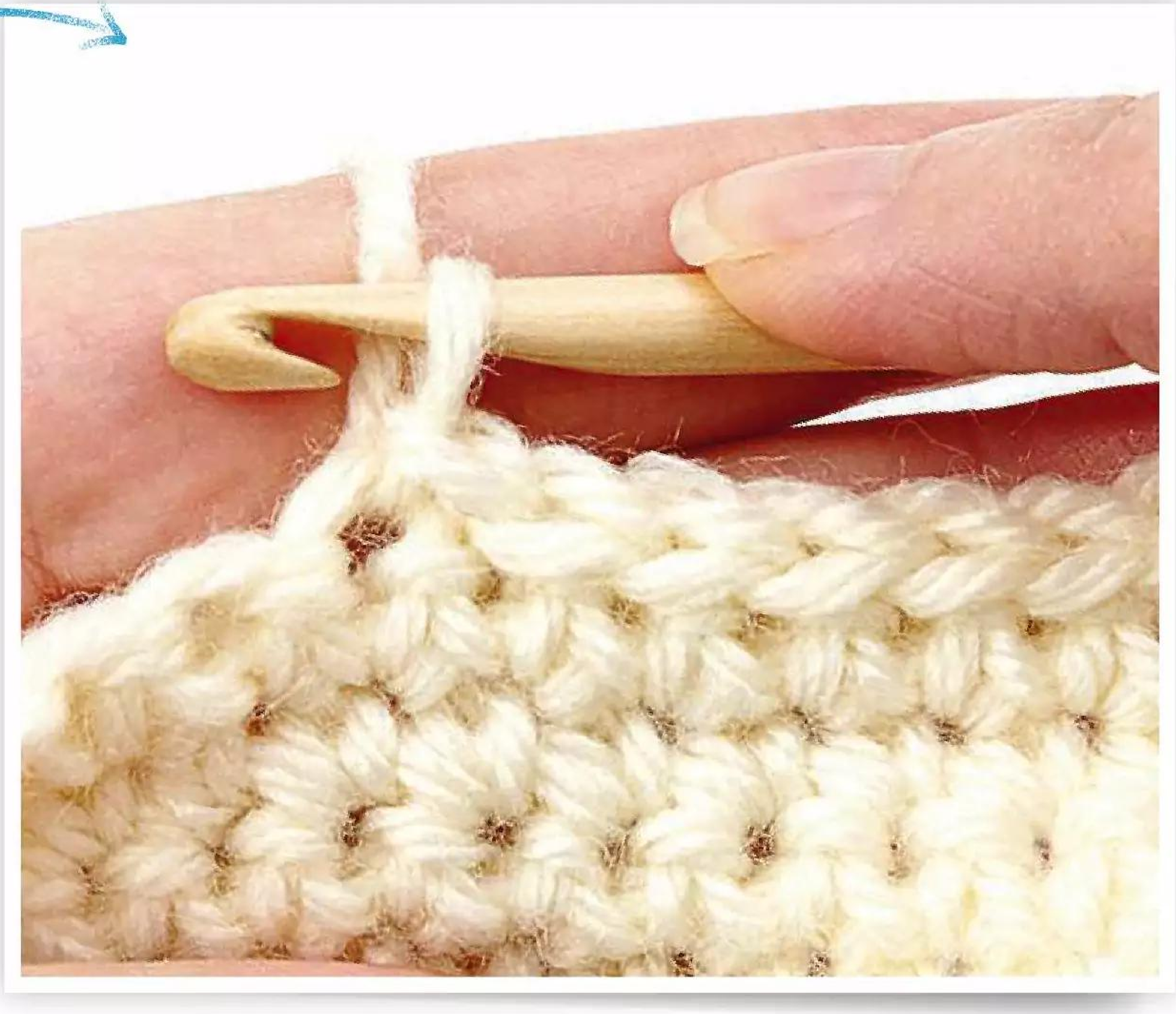


JOINING

Slip stitch is a very useful technique in your crochet repertoire. It has a variety of uses, but it's most regularly used as a joining stitch for working in the round, like this. It can also be used to join together one part of the crochet fabric to another part, or for creating shaping. Slip stitch is abbreviated as 'ss' or 'sl st'.

EDGING

Slip stitch is also handy for creating a narrow edging on another fabric, as shown right. You can also use the stitch if you need to move your crochet hook to another part of the fabric because the stitch is very small. It can also be used as a stitch, worked in rows, but it has almost no height so it creates a very dense fabric and is rarely used like this in patterns.



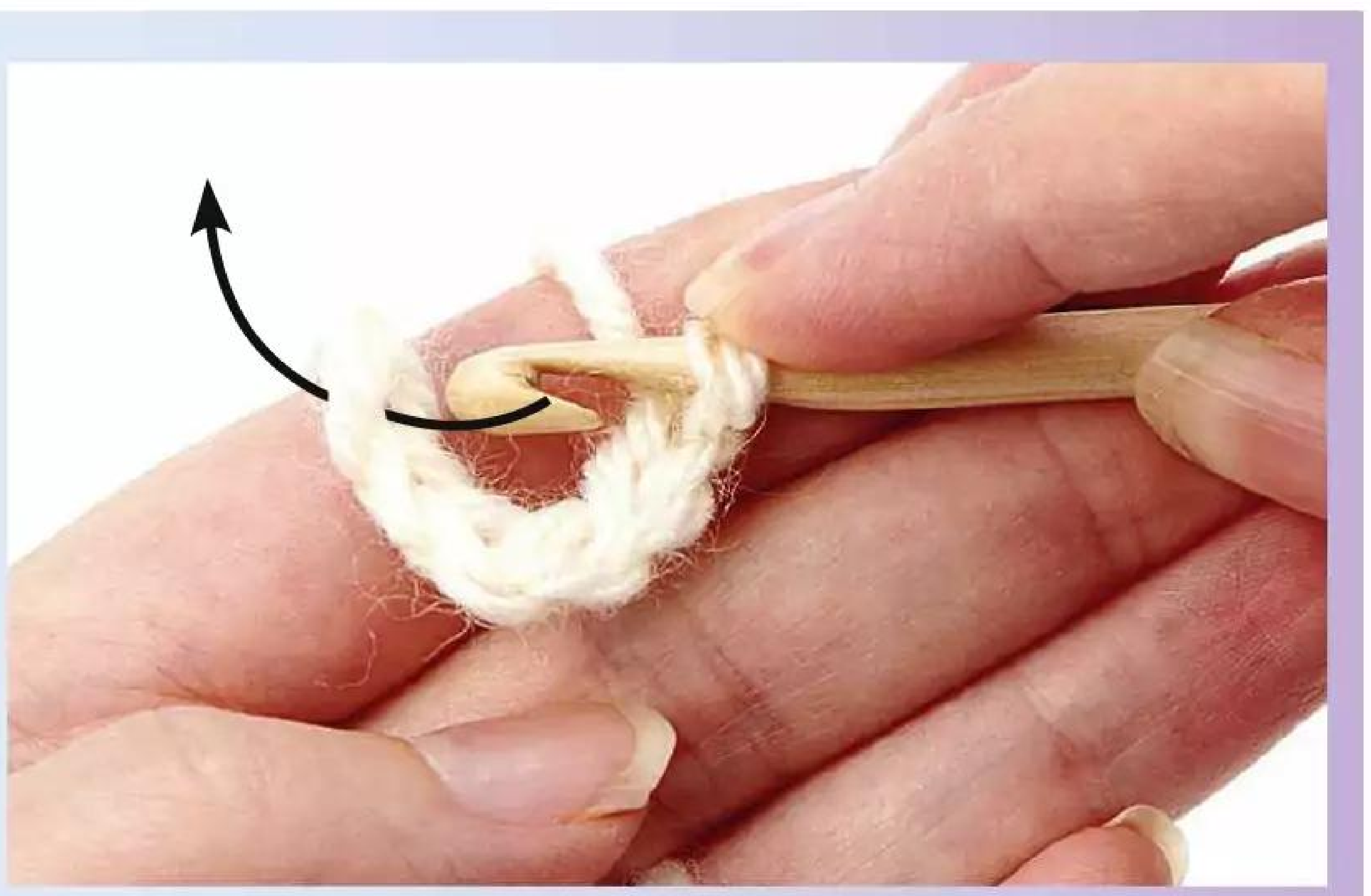
MAKE A SLIP STITCH

Practise working this essential crochet technique

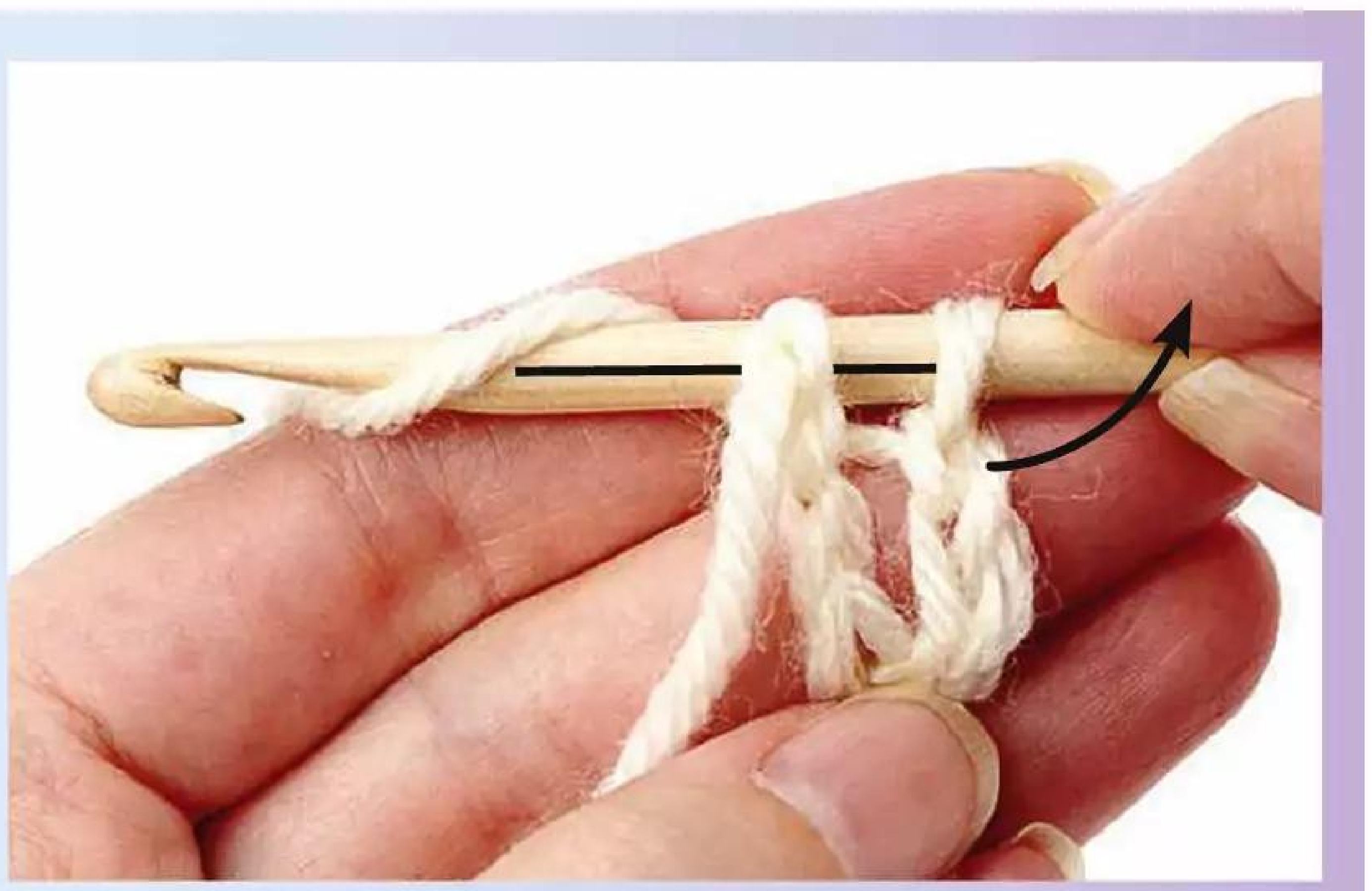
You can make a slip stitch into any chain or stitch that you want to. A slip stitch will neatly join the working loop on the hook with the stitch that you've inserted the hook into – great for making loops and lacy fabrics. To practise working a slip stitch, make a short chain length and follow the instructions below.

Once you've practised making slip stitches, you'll see how easy and handy the technique can be for joining one area of your crochet fabric to another. Slip stitches are also essential for creating foundation rings when you're working in the round (more on this from page 52). They are also very useful for making granny squares, as you will need to move from one part of the square to another without creating height.

RIGHT-HAND

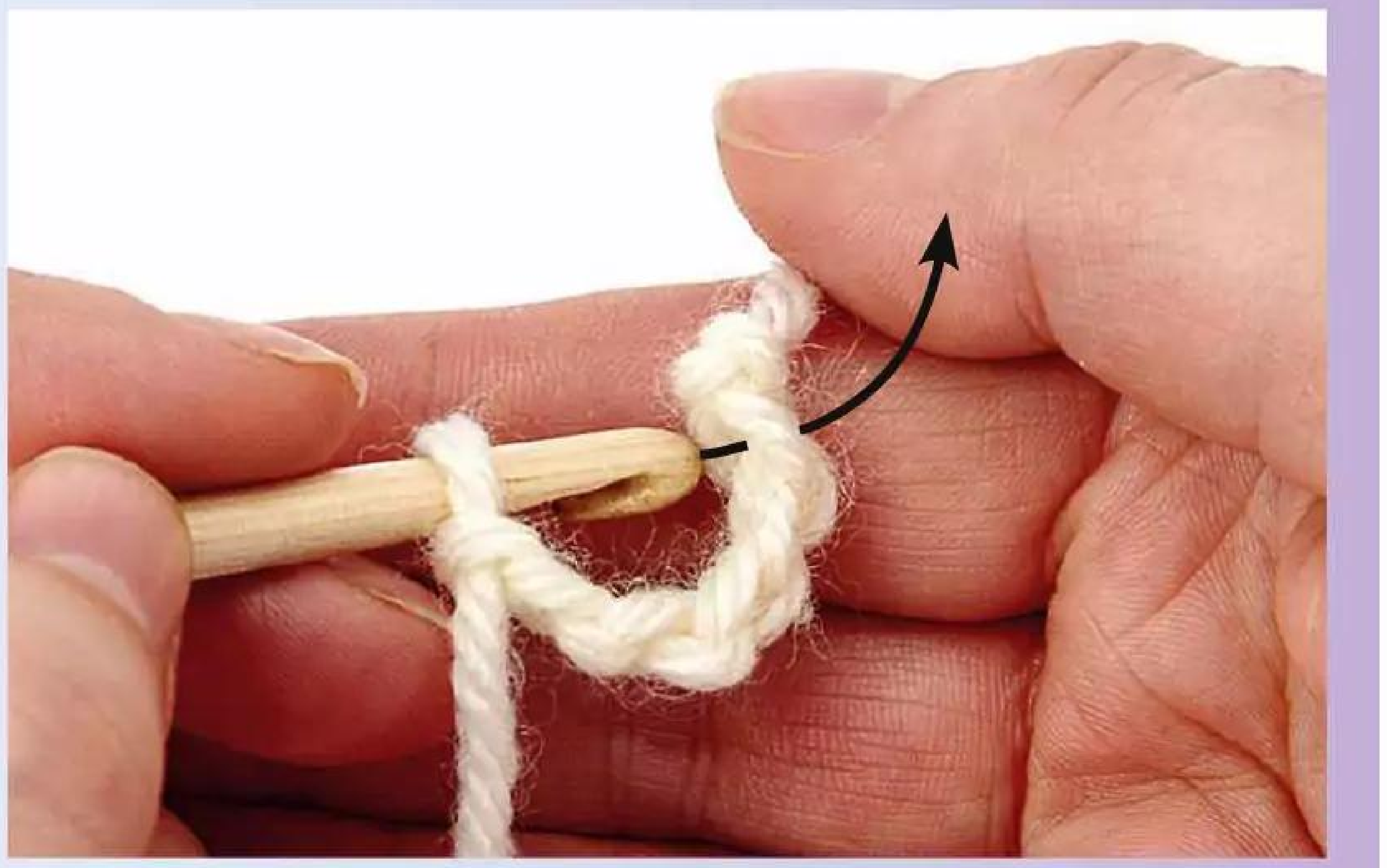


1 With a slipknot on your hook, catch the ball end of yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps around it anticlockwise. This action is called 'yarn round hook' or 'yrh'.

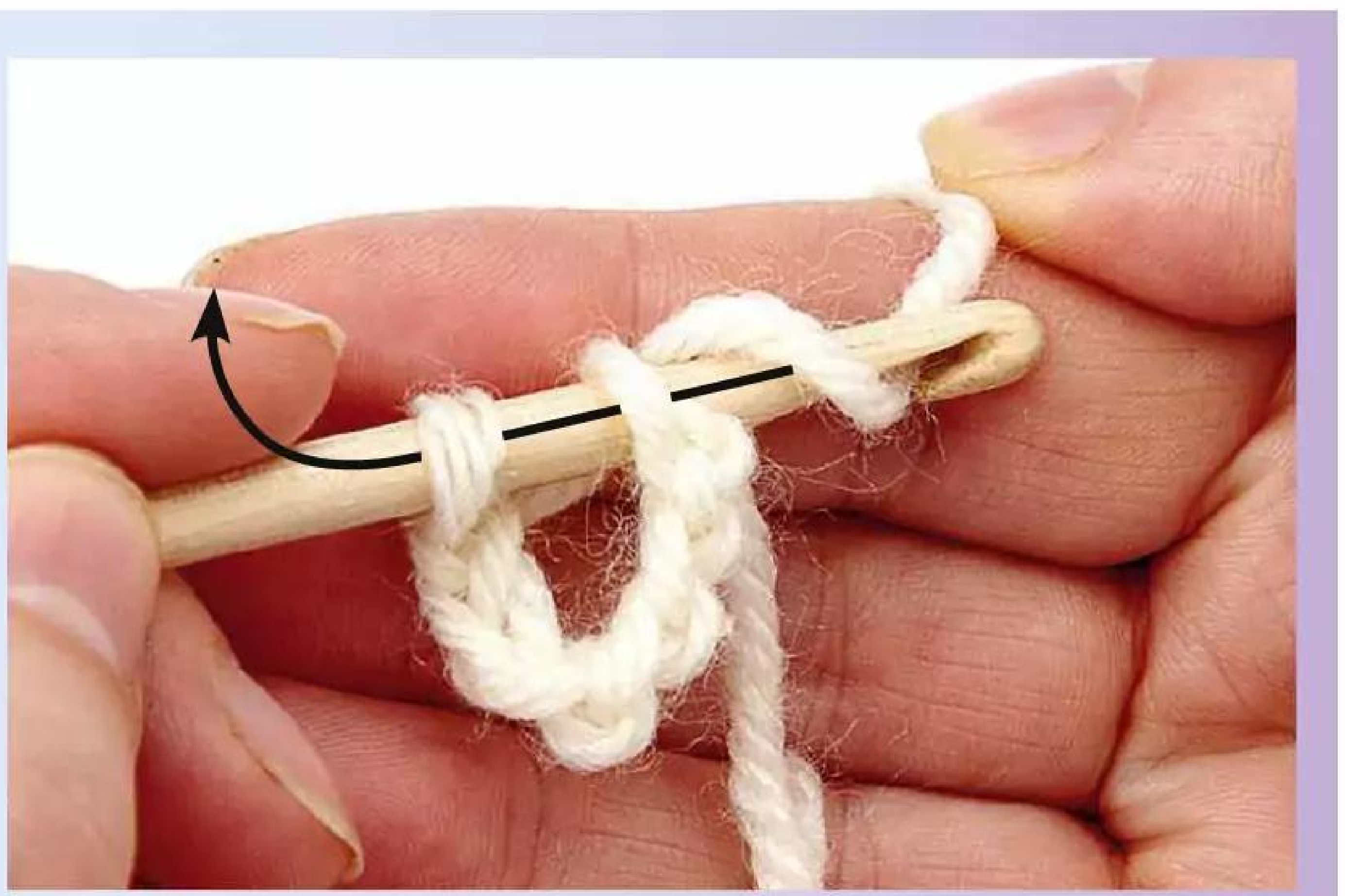


2 Pull the hook (and yarn) back through the two loops on the hook (one loop is the chain you inserted the hook into, the other loop is the original working loop you had on the hook), to finish the slip stitch.

LEFT-HAND



1 Make a chain length around 6 chains long. Insert the hook into the first chain you made (not the slipknot). Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps clockwise around it (this is yrh).



2 Pull the hook (and yarn) back through the two loops on the hook (one loop is the chain you inserted the hook into, the other loop is the original working loop you had on the hook), to finish the slip stitch.

DOUBLE CROCHET FABRIC

This super-easy stitch forms a dense, sturdy fabric

Once you've learned to make chains, you'll be able to work some crochet stitches into them. The double crochet stitch (called single crochet in the US) is usually the first stitch that crocheters learn. It's quick and easy, and there are plenty of patterns that use nothing else.

The double crochet is a small, short stitch that creates a dense fabric with almost no gaps. The resulting fabric is usually quite thick, firm and warm, so it's a great stitch for winter accessories. It's also useful for items that need a firm shape, such as amigurumi toys and homewares. Try making small squares for dishcloths or you can use larger ones for cushions.

Crocheters often describe the specific patterned effect created on the crochet fabric as a 'stitch pattern'. If you work rows of double crochet stitches on every row, back and forth, you'll create a simple double crochet stitch pattern.

Below left is an example of double crochet stitches worked in one row. Repeat these rows to create double crochet fabric, shown below. You'll see that the stitch pattern creates rows of 'v' shapes. In rows, double crochet fabric looks the same on the front and the back, which can be useful. In rounds, double crochet fabric gives a different effect on each side. Whichever method you're using, a pattern should tell you which is the right and wrong side.

Work through our guide to learn the double crochet stitch and then have a go at our cute frill project on page 39.

❶ NEAT ROWS

Each double crochet stitch is worked into each chain stitch, creating a neat 'v' shape along the side of the stitch and also a 'v' shape at the top of the stitch. Double crochet is abbreviated as 'dc' in patterns.

❷ DENSE FABRIC

Double crochet fabric is firm, dense, warm and has a lovely drape. The small stitches sit very close together and create a fine texture.

HIP TO BE SQUARE

For every stitch you learn and practise, crochet up a square or two, using different colours if you want to. Then sew them all together to make a fab throw that will become a great reference guide. Try using DK yarn, a 4mm hook and about 22 stitches to make a 10cm (4in) square, or 33 stitches to make a slightly larger 15cm (6in) square. Make a foundation chain of 22 or 33 chains, then the turning chain. Then work a double crochet stitch into each of the 22 or 33 chains to the end. Turn, make the turning chain and work a double crochet into every stitch to the end. Repeat until you have a square, then fasten off.

DOUBLE CROCHET FABRIC IDEAS

The dense fabric created using double crochet stitches is ideal for many items, including stuffed toys, unlined bags and even cute baby garments.

WORK INTO CHAINS

Start crocheting by working stitches into your chain length

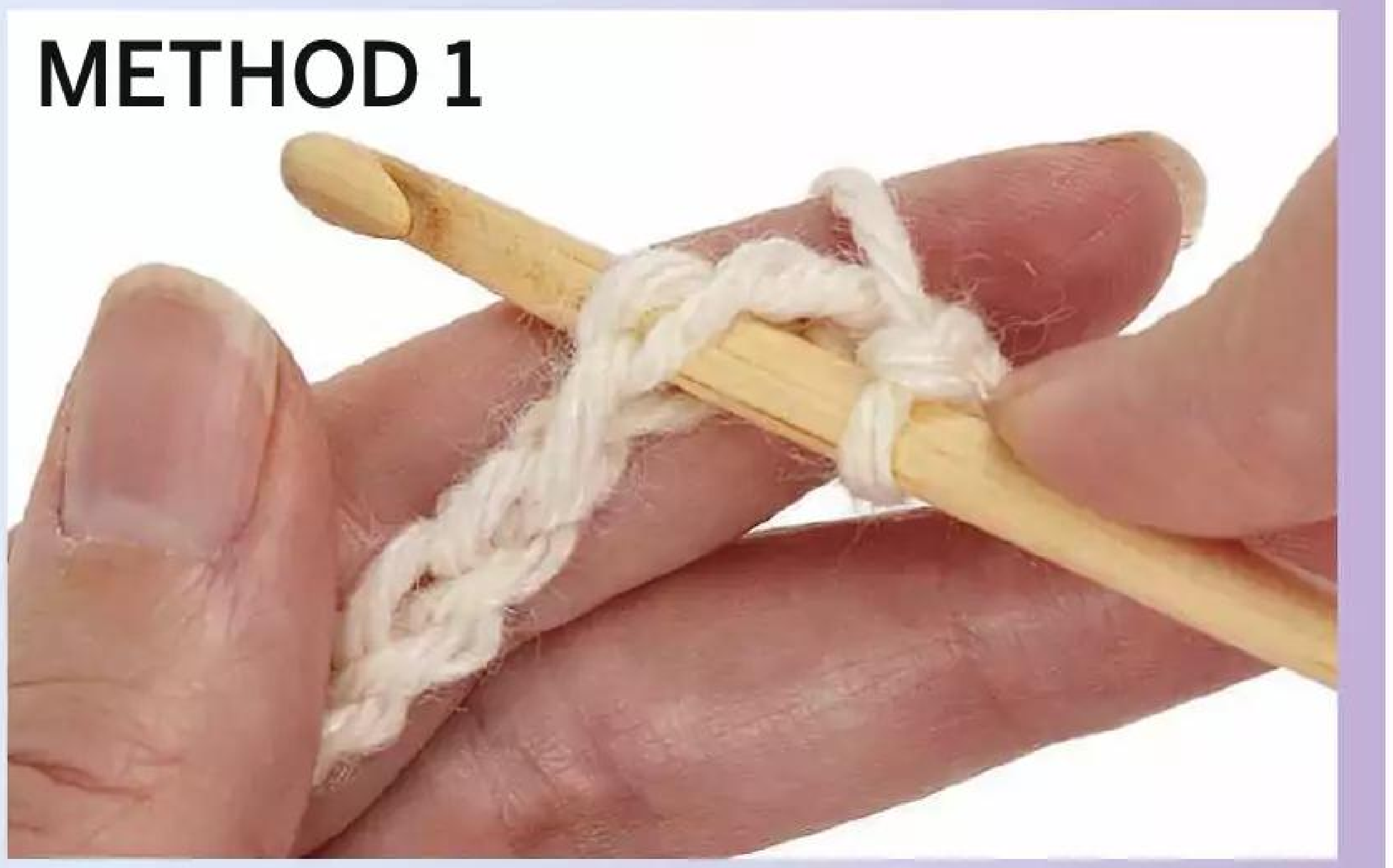
Now you're ready to work double crochet stitches into your chain length. We've suggested two methods (below) for doing this. You might find that one suits you better than the other, so try both to find out. How tightly you crochet will affect which one you prefer to an extent, and you may use different methods for different projects.

Some patterns will ask you to insert the hook under one loop of the chain rather than two, and this can work well if your chain is a bit tight. If the stitches of the foundation chain are too tight to work into easily, undo it and rework it using a larger hook. Then switch back to the smaller hook to work the stitches of the pattern.

You'll find that Method 2 below gives the edge of the fabric a neater, more solid finish and maintains the plaited look of the front of the chain, giving your work a good finish.

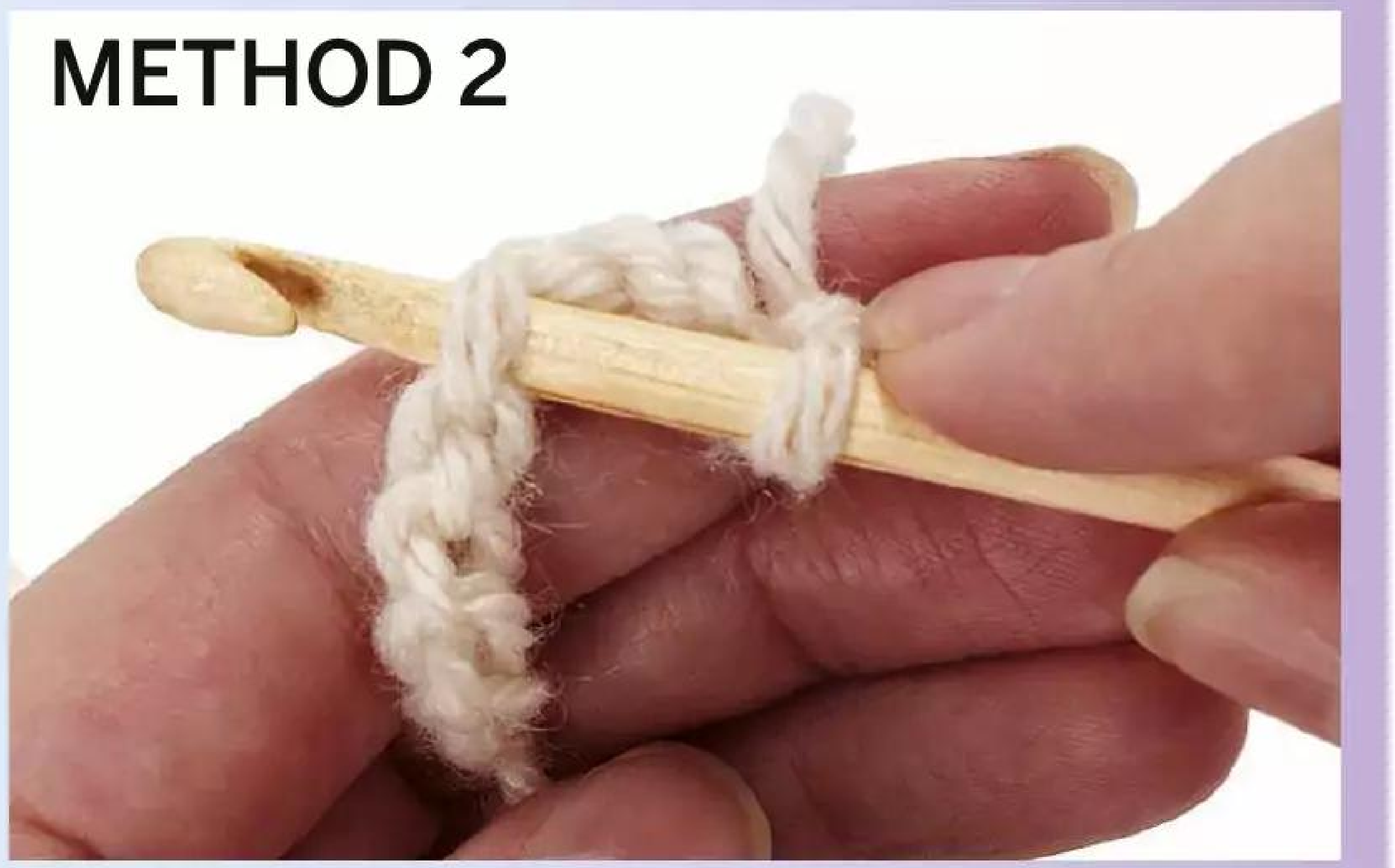
RIGHT-HAND

METHOD 1



Insert your hook into the centre of the chain, as shown, under two loops of the chain stitch. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first double crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

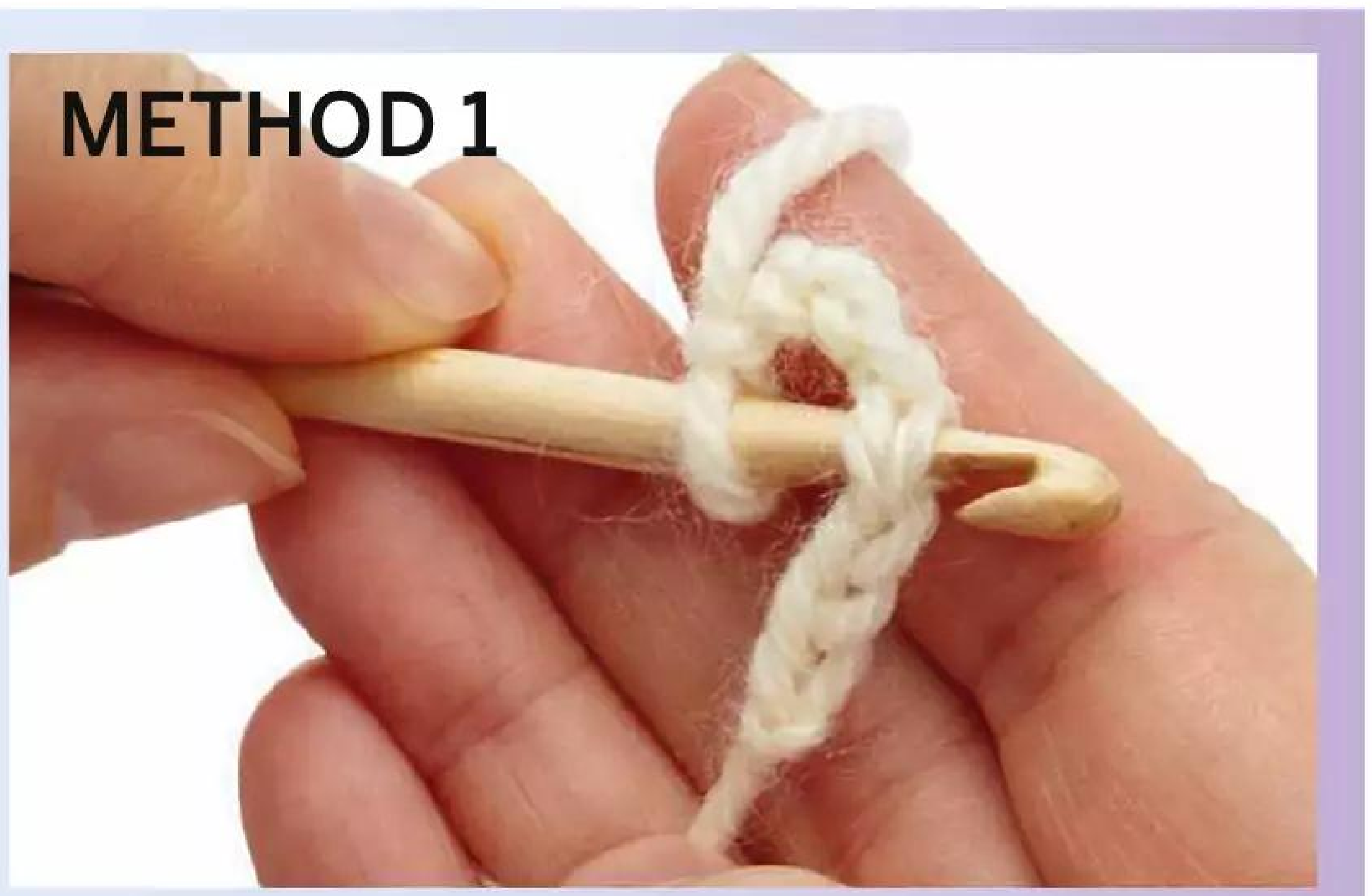
METHOD 2



Insert your hook into the bump on the back of the chain. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first double crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

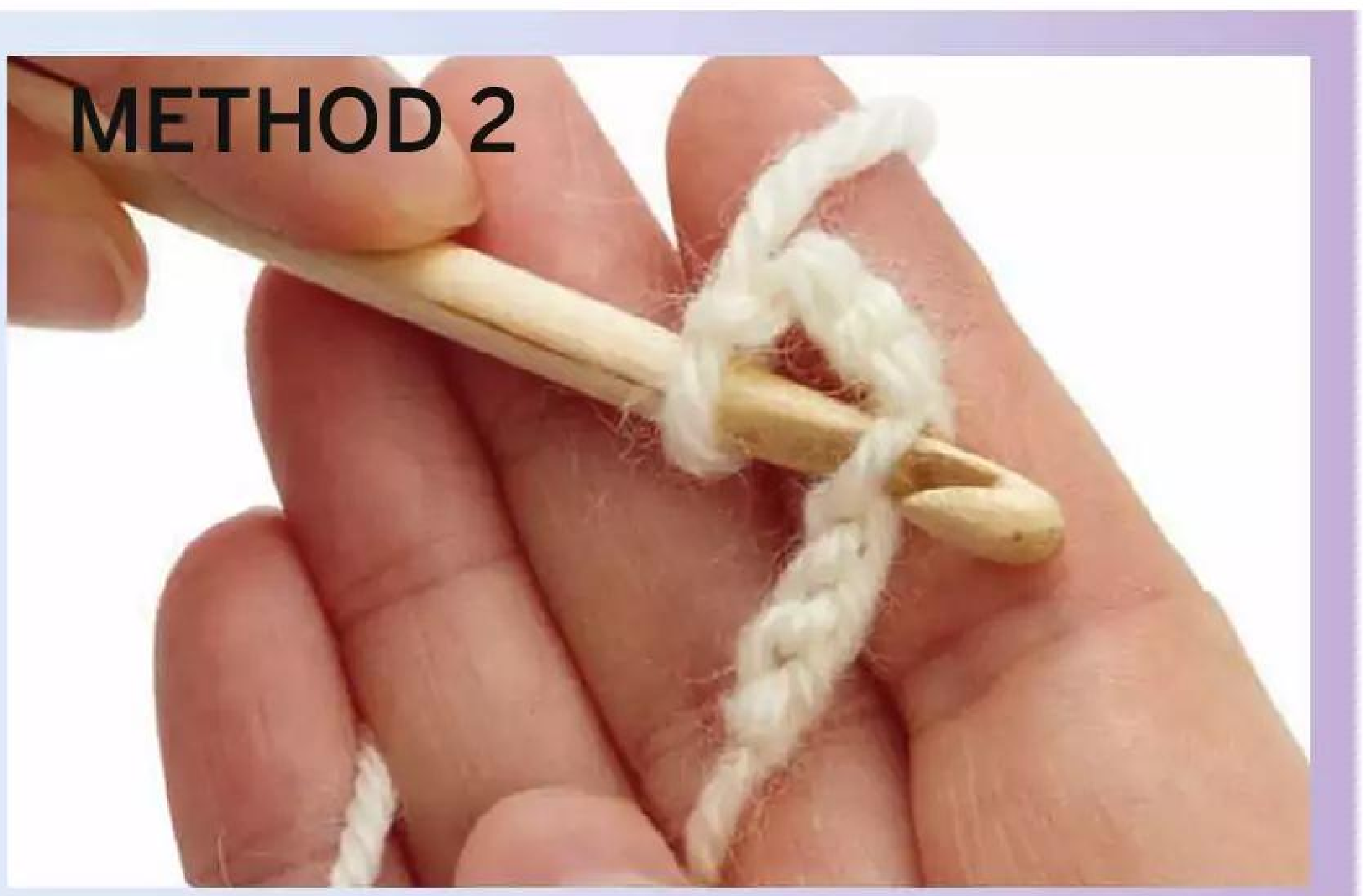
LEFT-HAND

METHOD 1



Insert your hook into the centre of the chain, as shown, under two loops of the chain stitch. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first double crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

METHOD 2



Insert your hook into the bump on the back of the chain. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first double crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

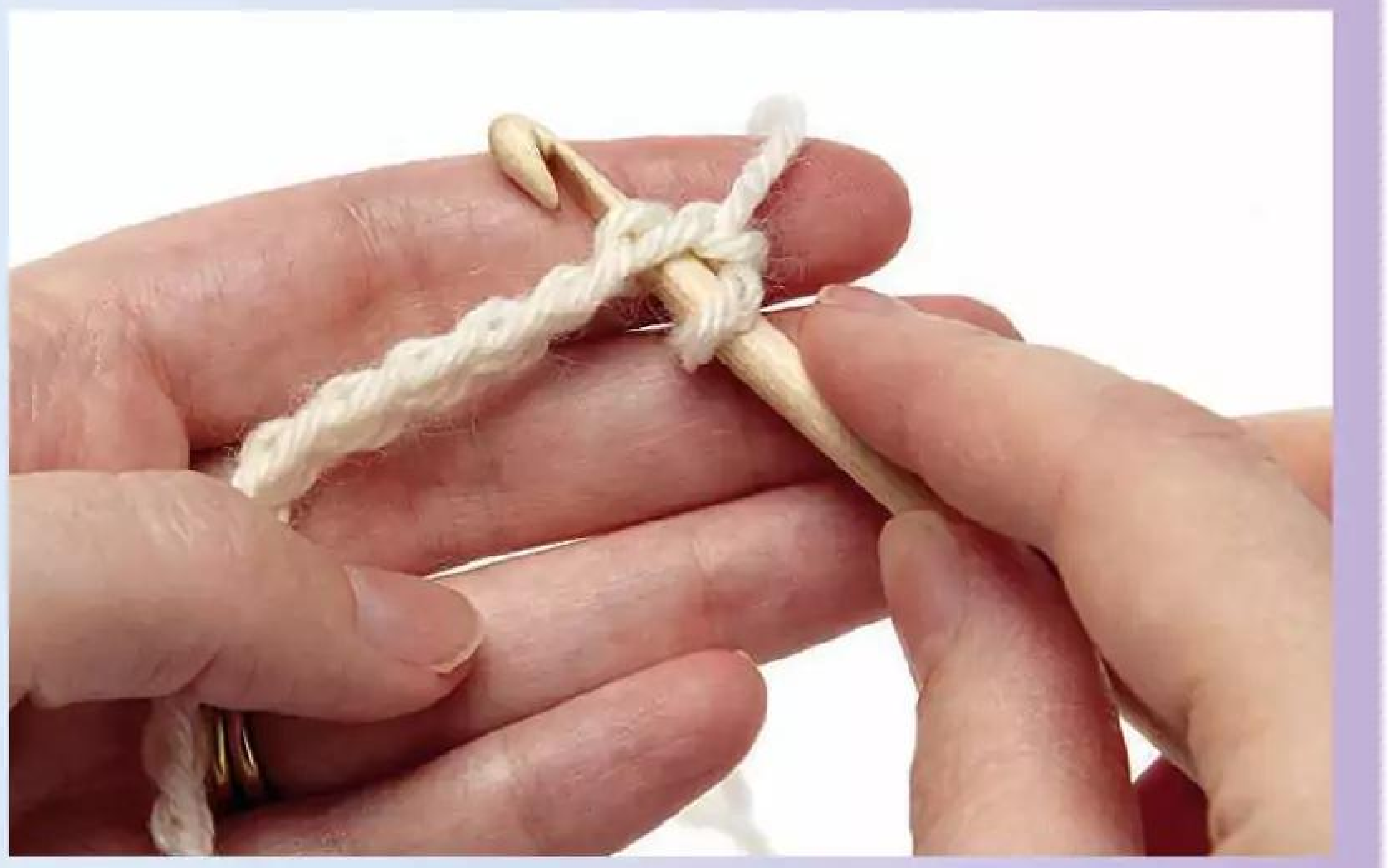
DOUBLE CROCHET STITCH

Create your first crochet stitch – it's really easy!

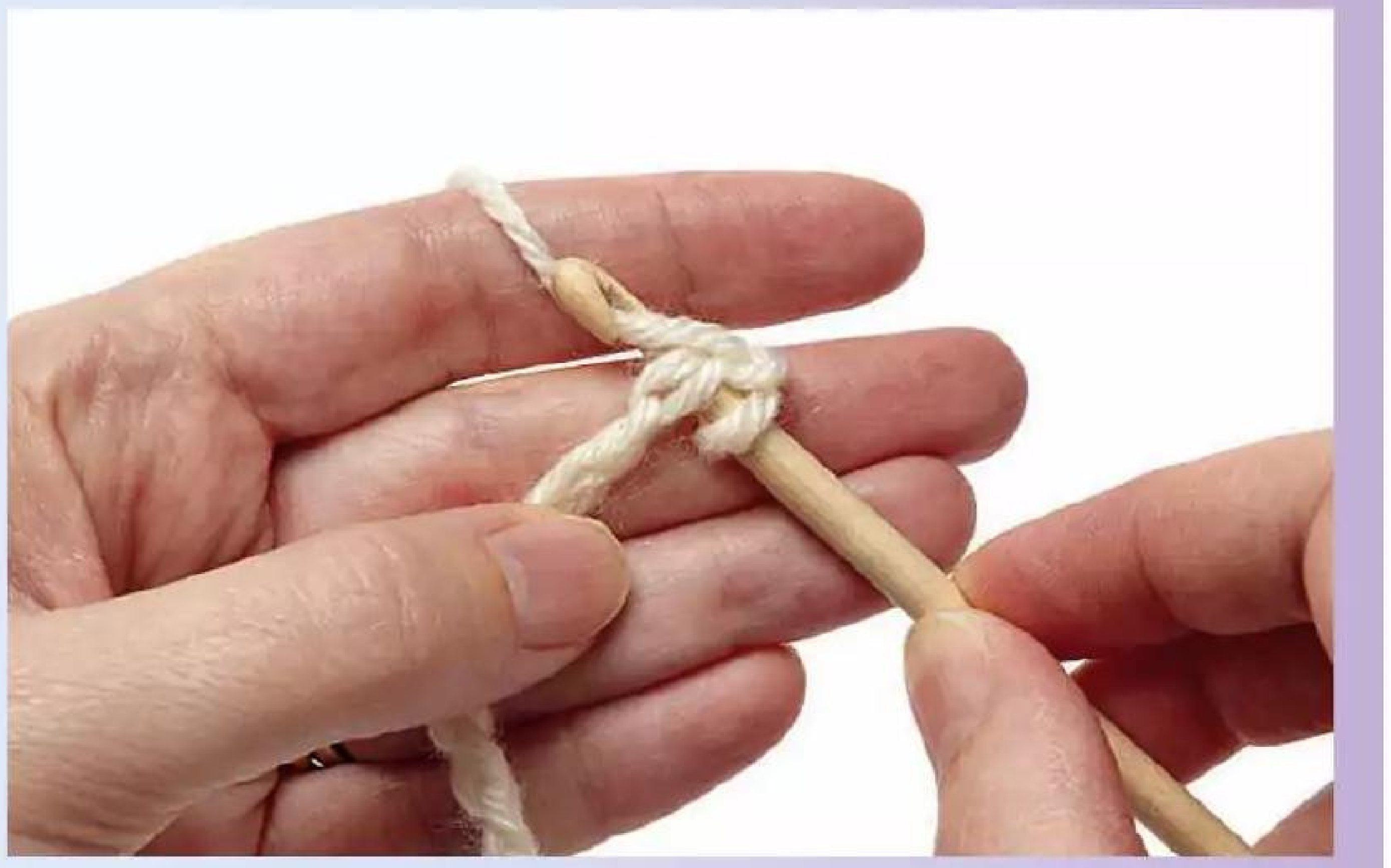
Double crochet is the easiest and most important stitch to learn. Once you master it, everything else is simple! Practise making a foundation chain – 22 chains is a good number, using DK yarn and a 4mm hook. Then make one more chain (this will be your turning chain, which is explained on page 37). For now, ignore this extra chain and work a double crochet stitch into the second chain from the hook (either into the front of the chain or into the bump on the back of the chain). Work a double crochet into each chain, holding the chain firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go. Work from right to left if you're right-handed, or left to right if you're left-handed. Don't work into the slipknot. Once you finish the first row of stitches (often called the foundation row), follow our guide to counting your stitches on page 35.

RIGHT-HAND

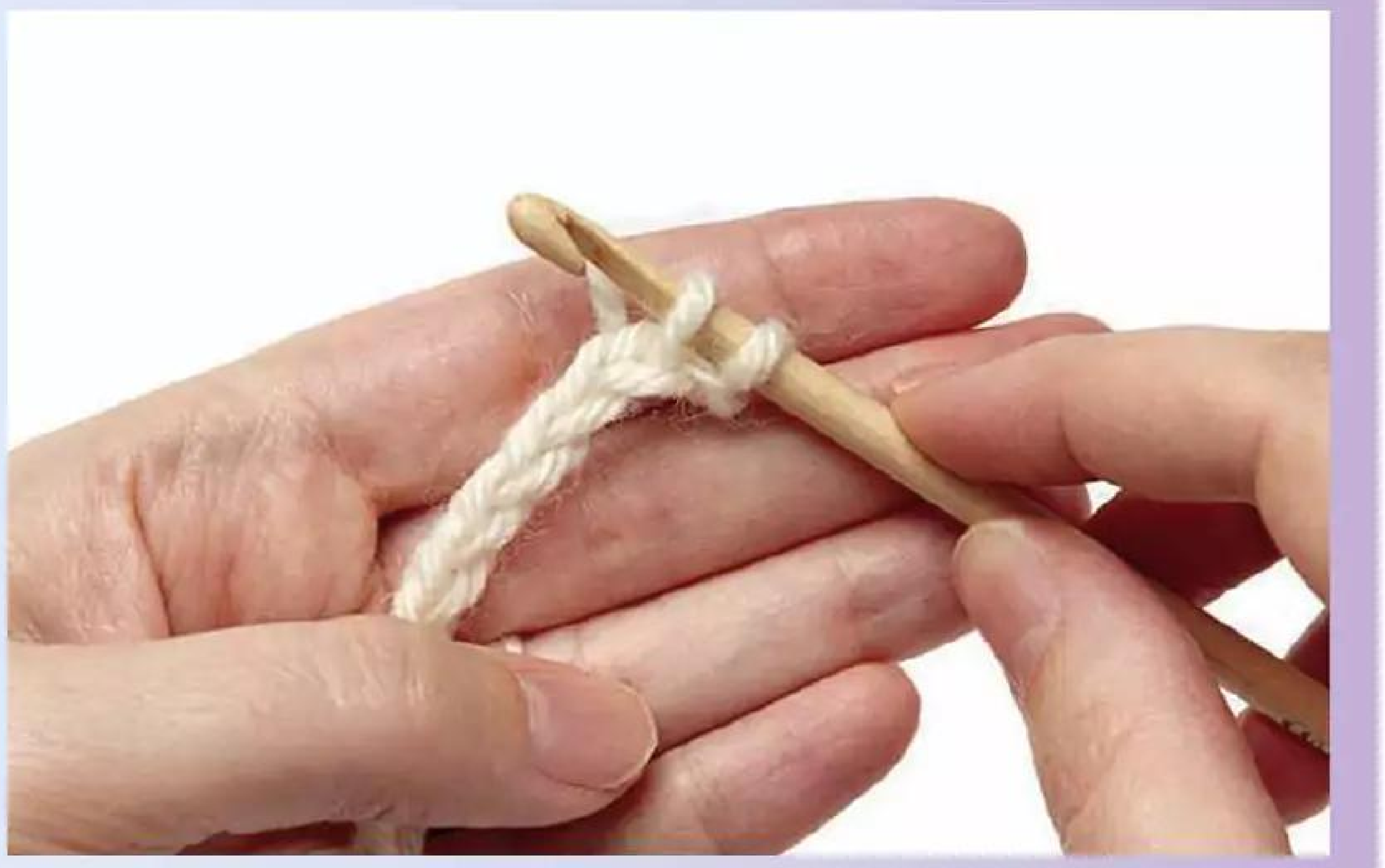
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double crochet stitch…



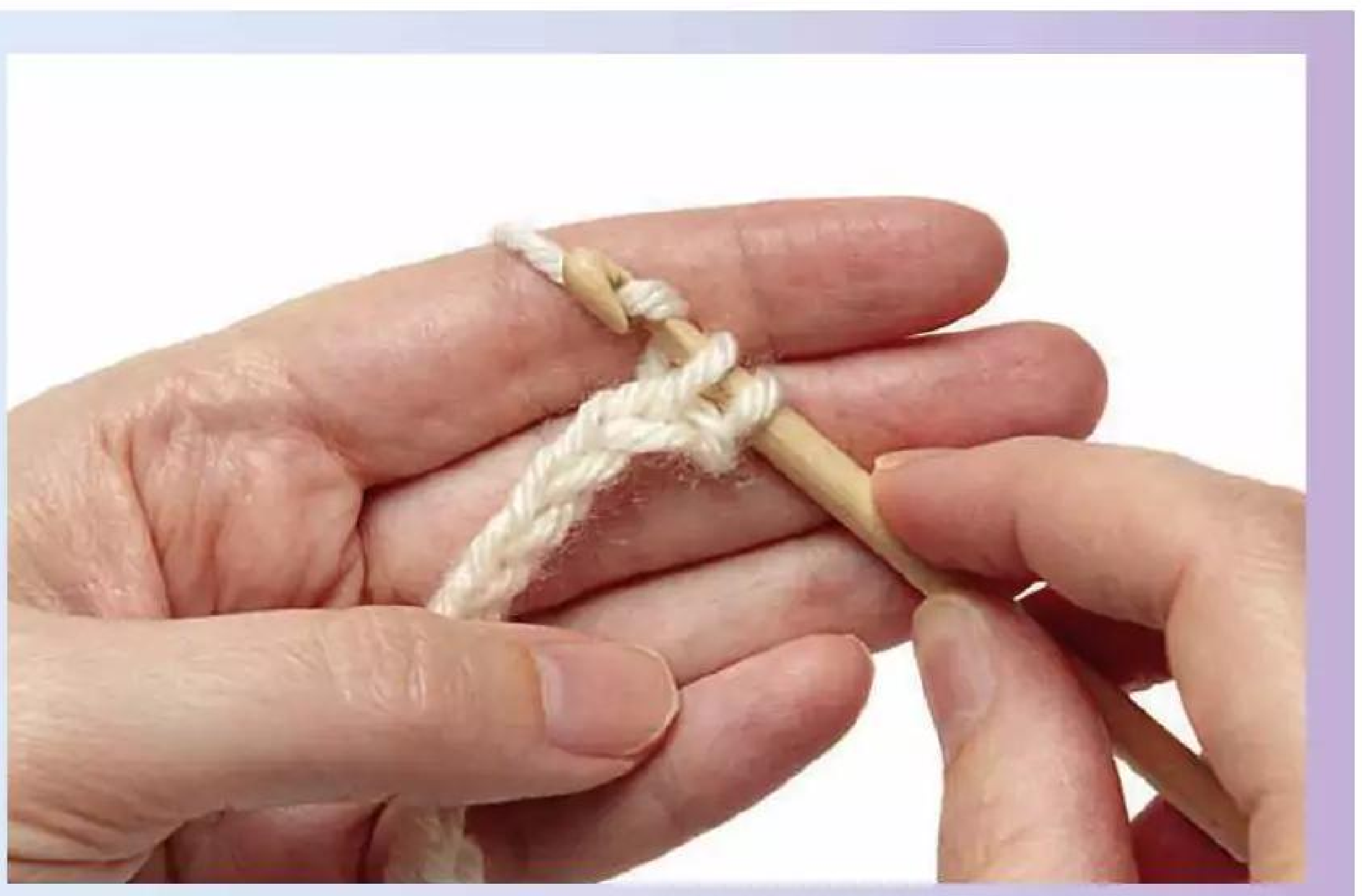
1 Holding the foundation chain as shown above, insert the hook into the second chain along from the hook.



2 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so that the yarn wraps anticlockwise around it (yarn round hook).



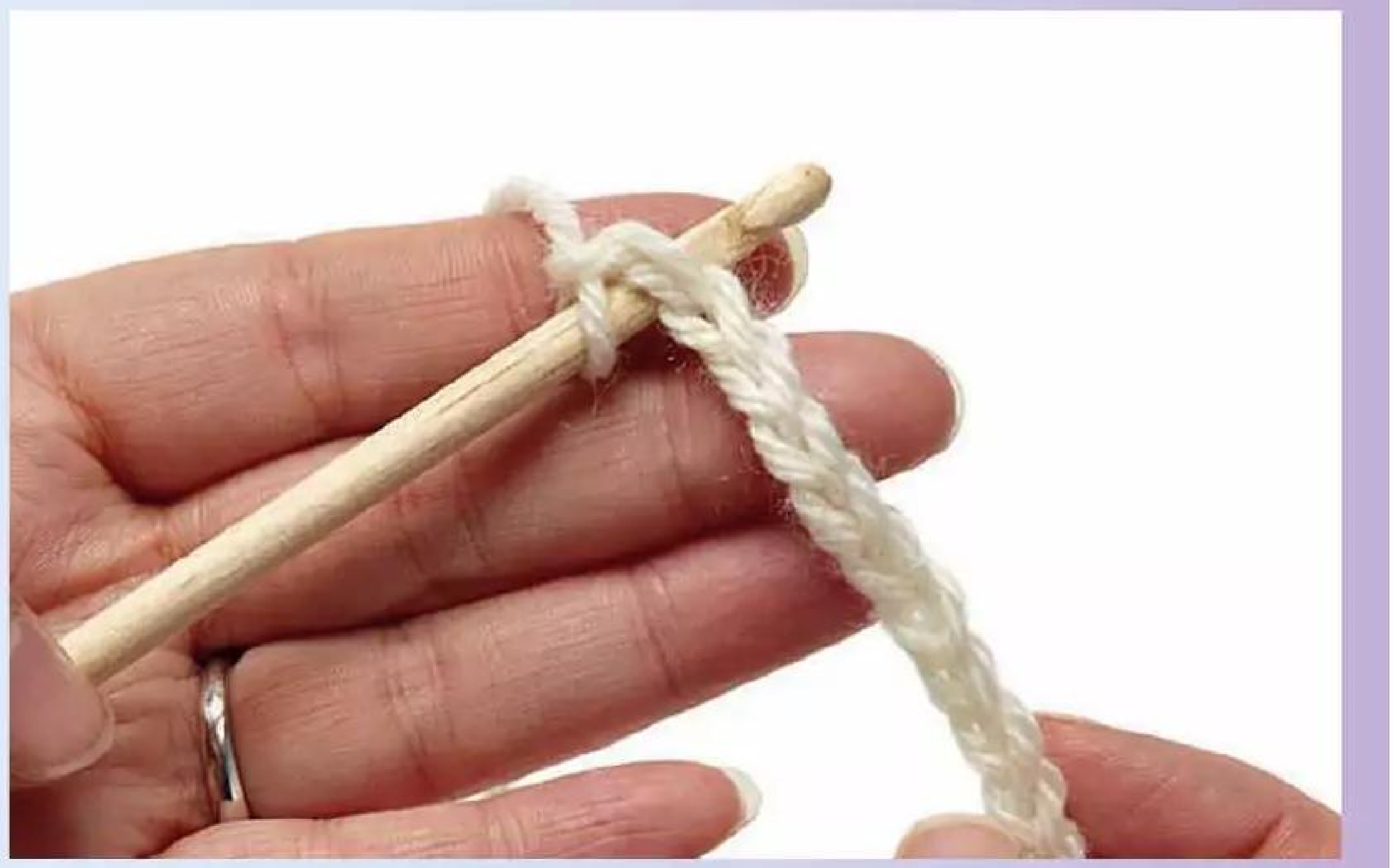
3 Gently pull the hook and yarn back towards the chain loop on the hook. Draw it all the way through the chain so that you have two loops on the hook.



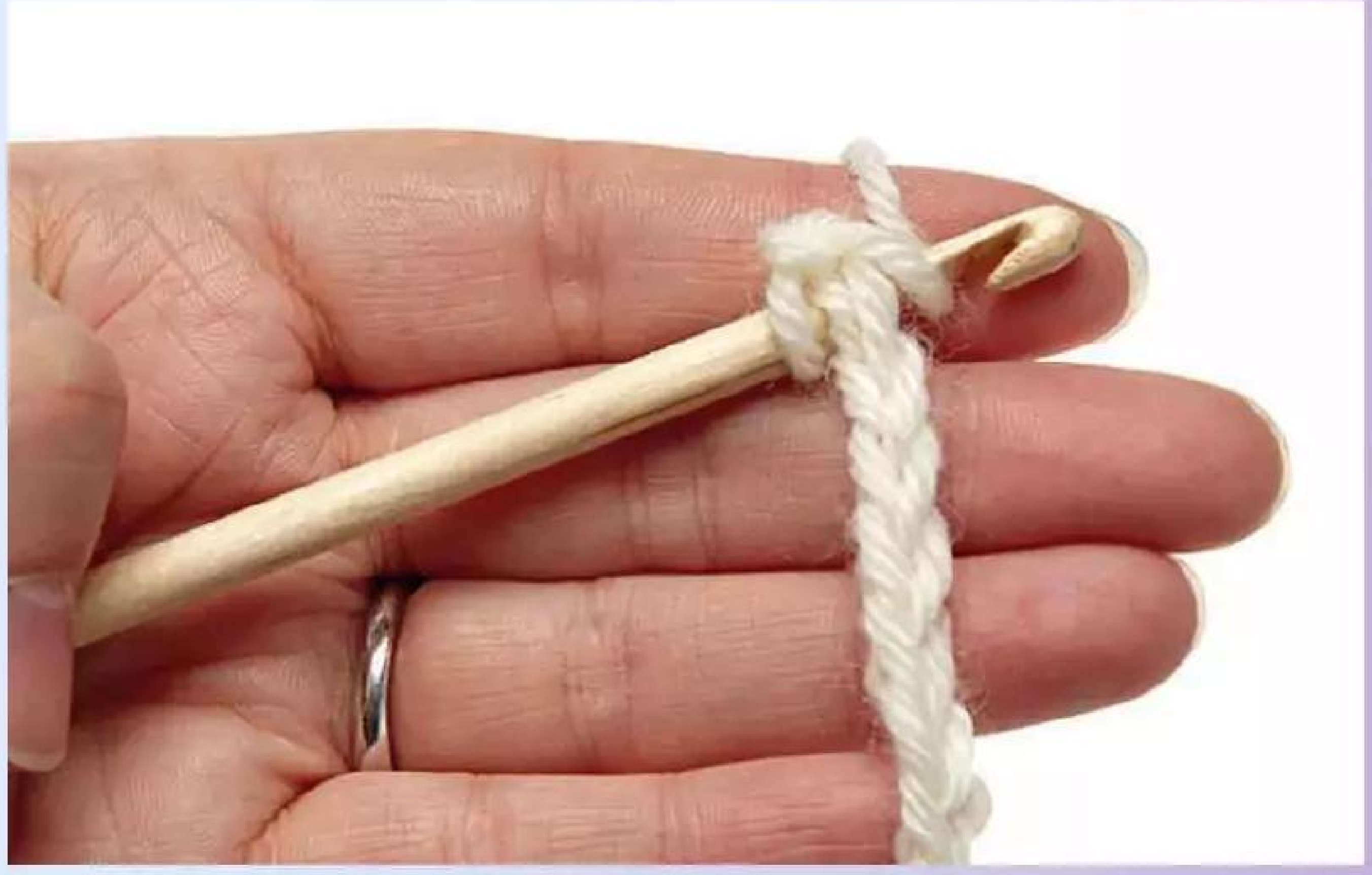
4 Catch the yarn with the hook again (yrh) and draw it through both loops on the hook to finish the stitch. Congratulations!

LEFT-HAND

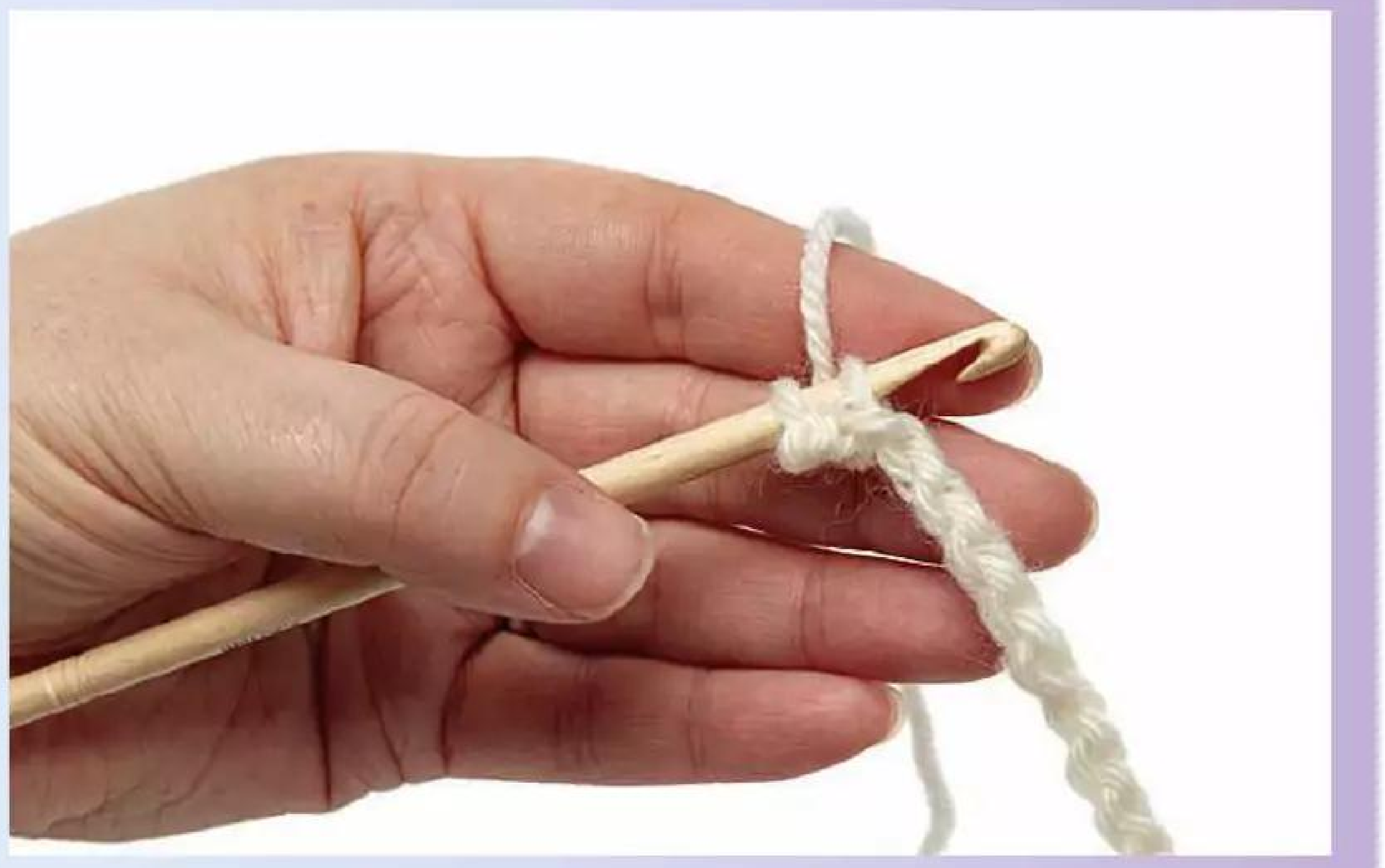
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double crochet stitch…



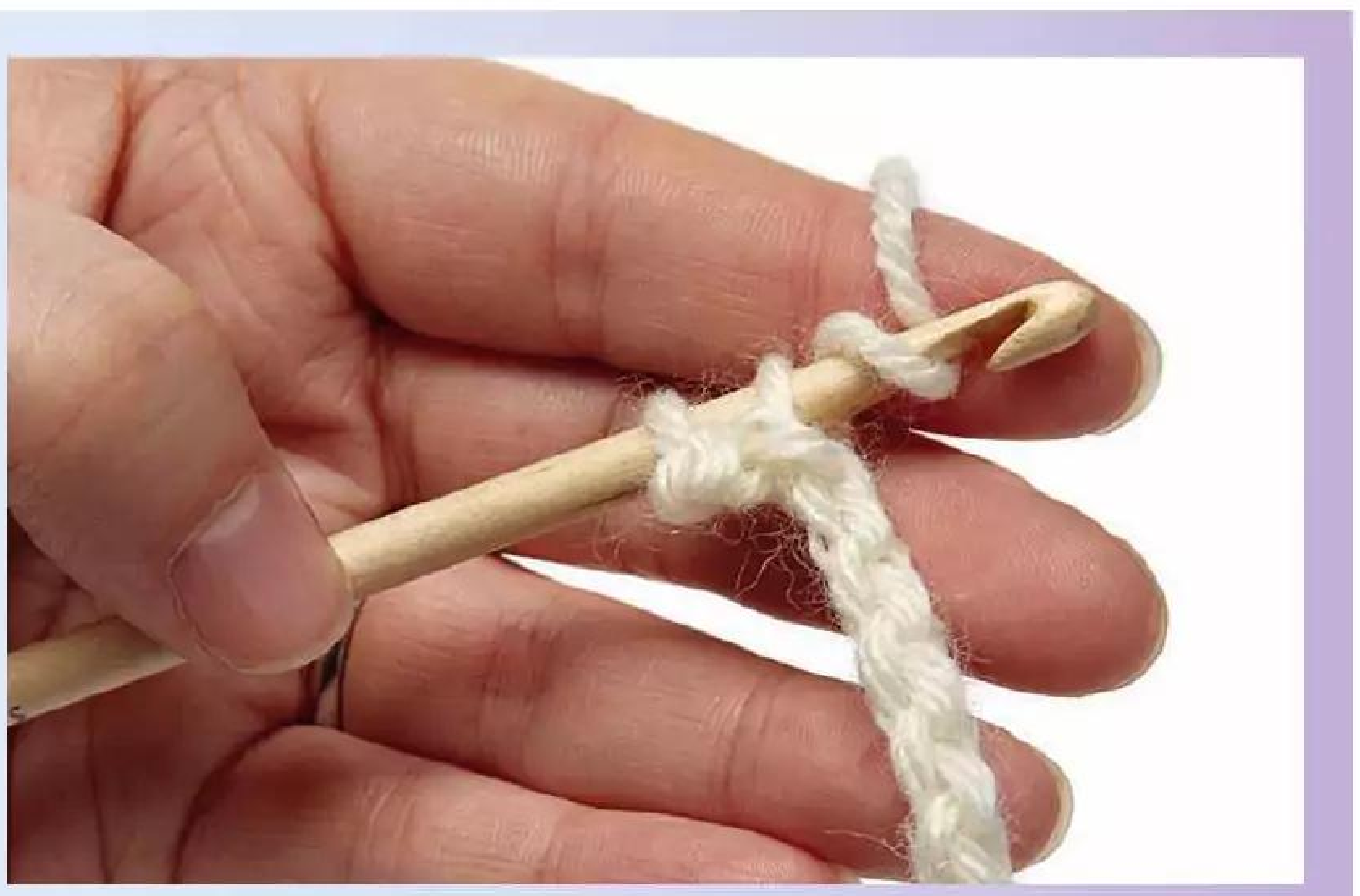
1 Holding the foundation chain as shown above, insert the hook into the second chain along from the hook.



2 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so that the yarn wraps clockwise around it (yarn round hook).



3 Gently pull the hook and yarn back towards the chain loop on the hook. Draw it all the way through the chain so that you have two loops on the hook.



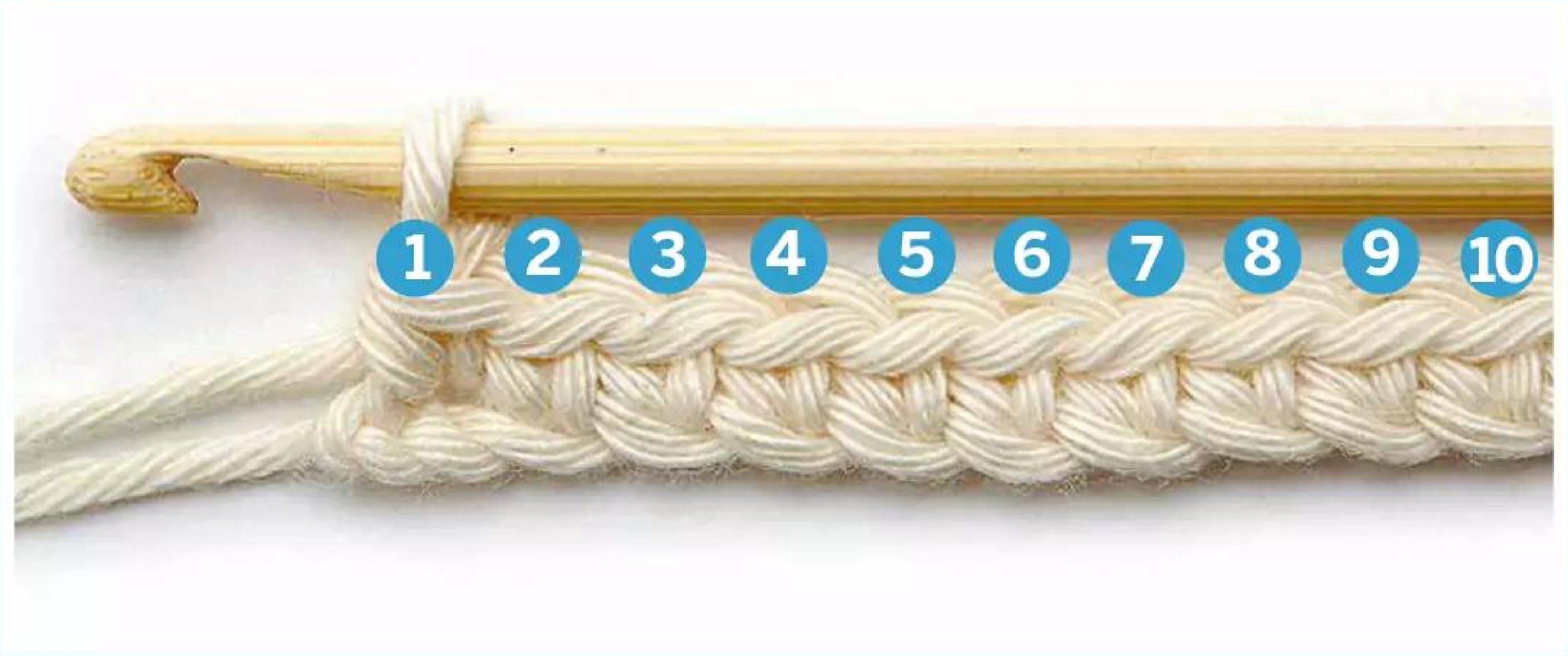
4 Catch the yarn with the hook again (yrh) and draw it through both loops on the hook to finish the stitch. Congratulations!

HOW TO COUNT STITCHES

Check that you have the right number of crochet stitches

Being able to count your stitches is vital and helps you to make sure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row, especially after the first row of stitches worked into your foundation chain.

To count short stitches such as double crochet, it's usually easier to look at the plaited tops of the stitches (see above), rather than the v-shape side of the stitch. For your practice foundation chain, if you made 22 chains (plus one turning chain) as suggested above, you should now be able to count 22 dc stitches on your chain.



CHECK EACH ROW
Count your stitches after working the first row of stitches into the foundation chain

DOUBLE CROCHET ROWS

Create more rows of double crochet to make fabric

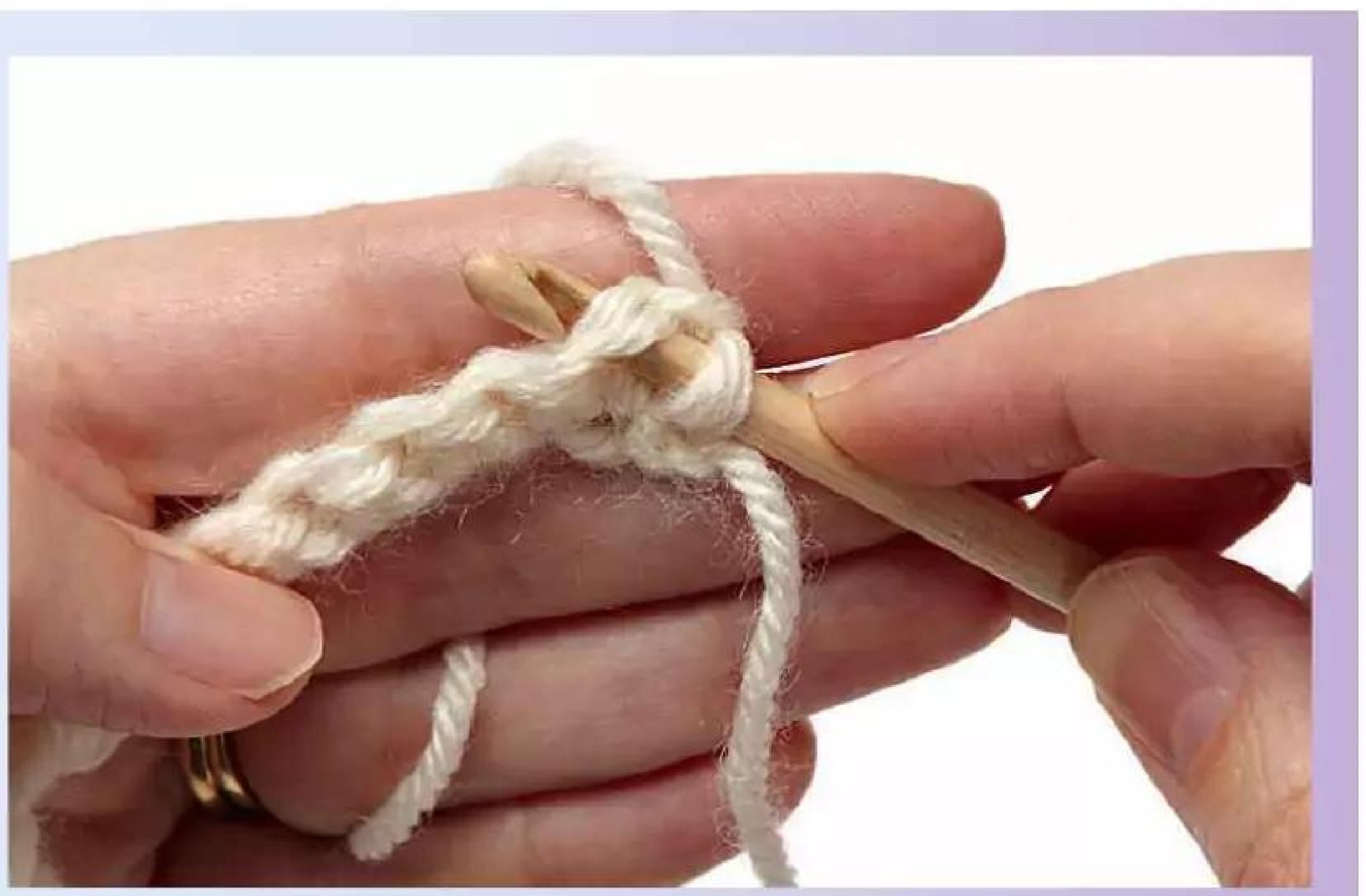
Once you've got started, the subsequent rows of double crochet are just as easy as the first row. All you need to do is turn your fabric, work the turning chain (see below right for more) and then work a stitch into the top of each stitch on the row below.

This is just as easy as working stitches into chains. The only extra technique you need to know is turning chains (see below right for info). In double crochet rows, you don't count the turning chain (t-ch) as a stitch and you don't work a double crochet stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous row. Have a practice and you'll soon get the hang of it.

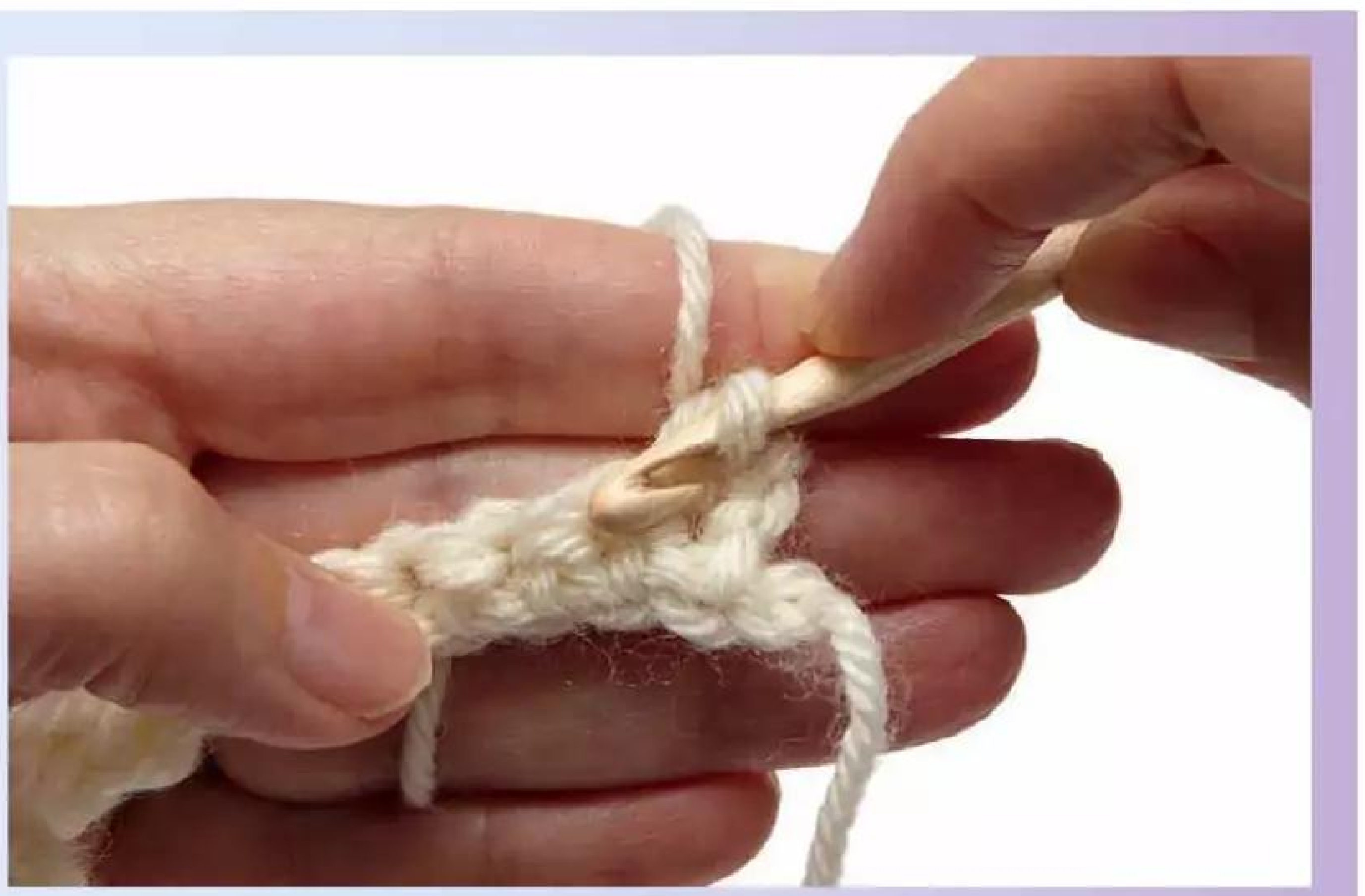
The more rows you work, the larger your piece of double crochet fabric. At the end of each row, count your stitches (this is the 'stitch count') to check that you haven't made too many or missed any stitches.

RIGHT-HAND

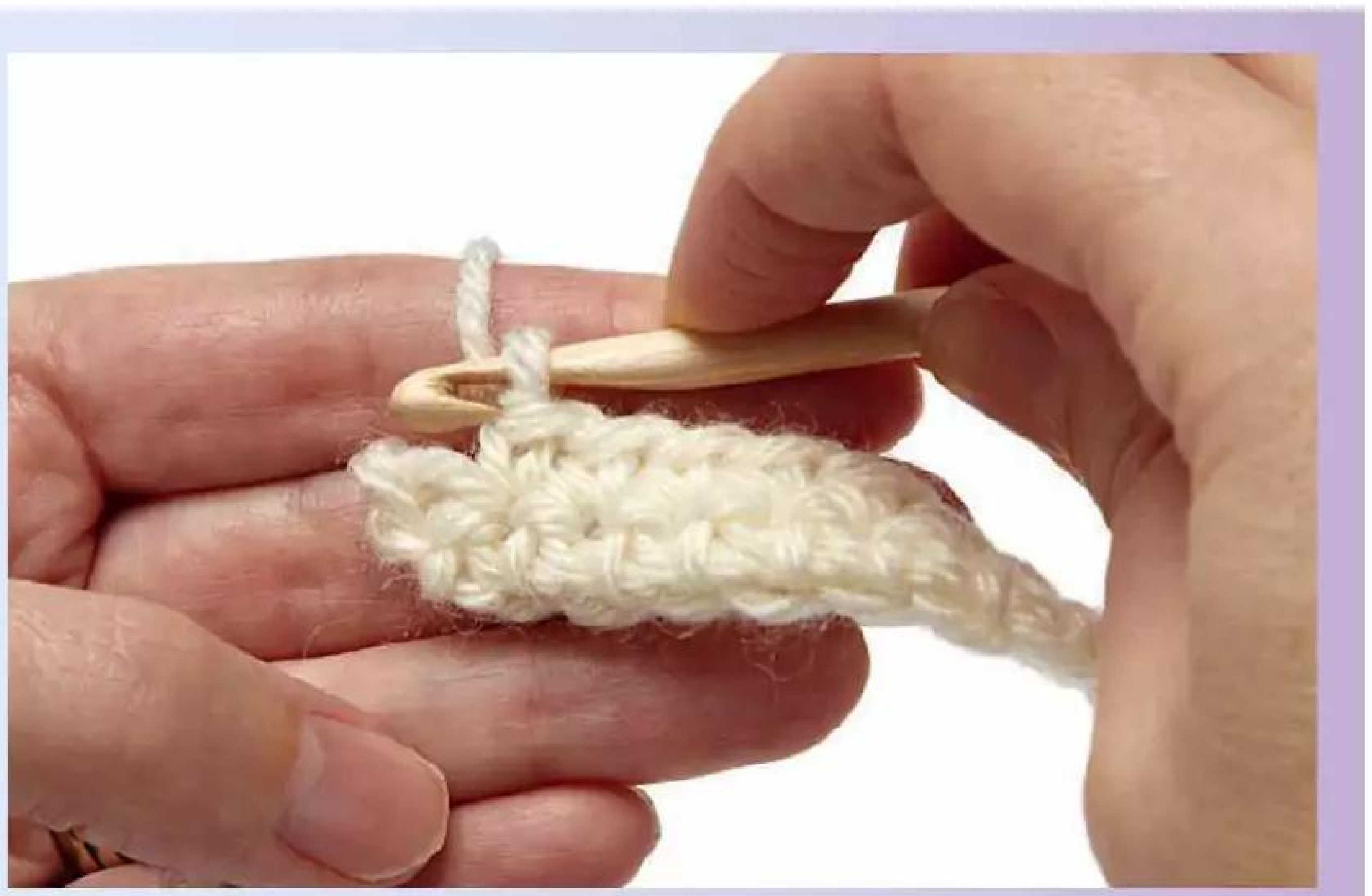
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of double crochet...



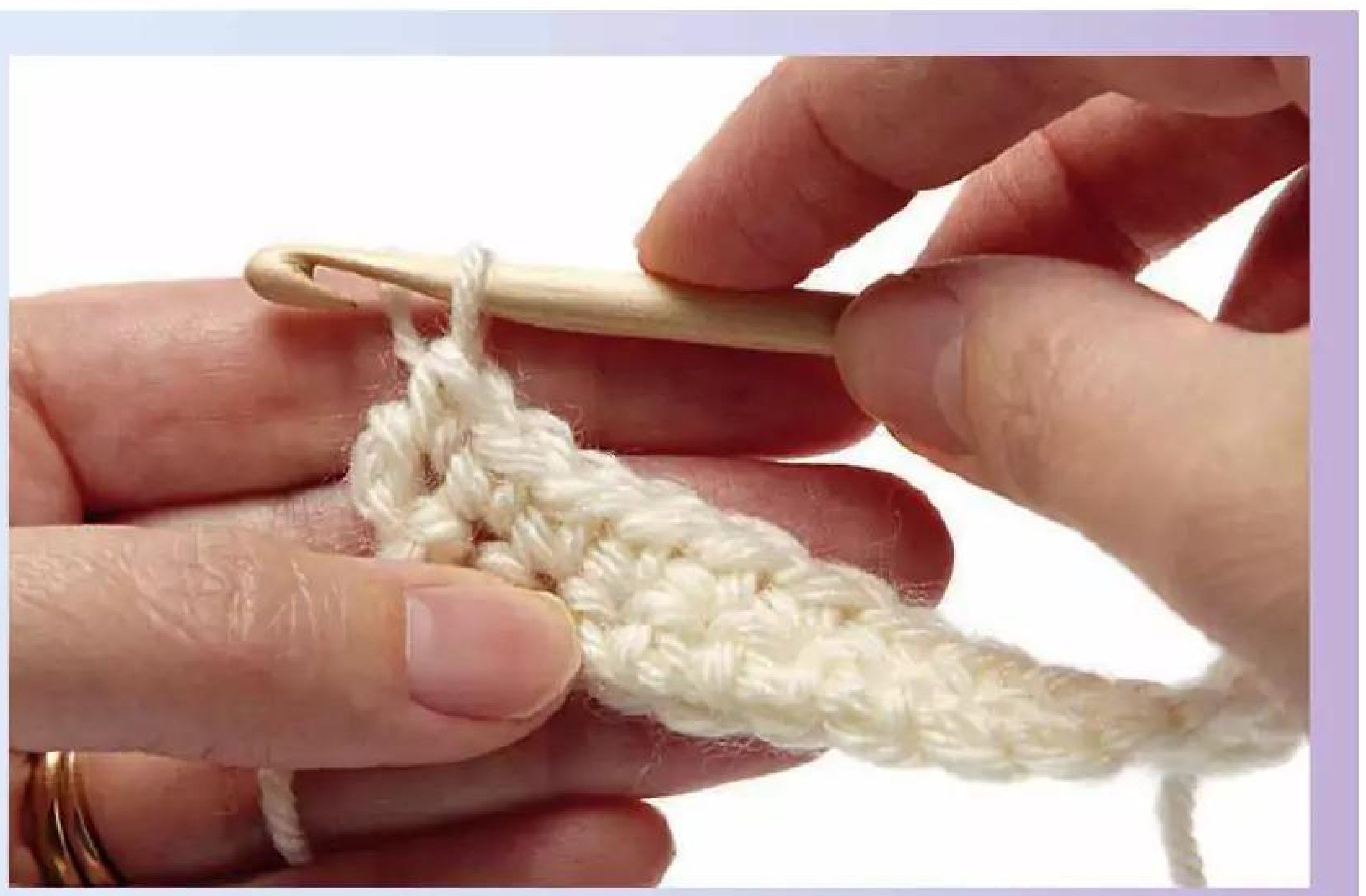
1 Turn and work one chain (this is the turning chain, see below right). Insert hook under the v-shaped top of the first stitch from the previous row. Make sure the hook passes under both loops, as shown above.



2 Work a double crochet stitch in the same way as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through two loops on hook). The first stitch will be complete.



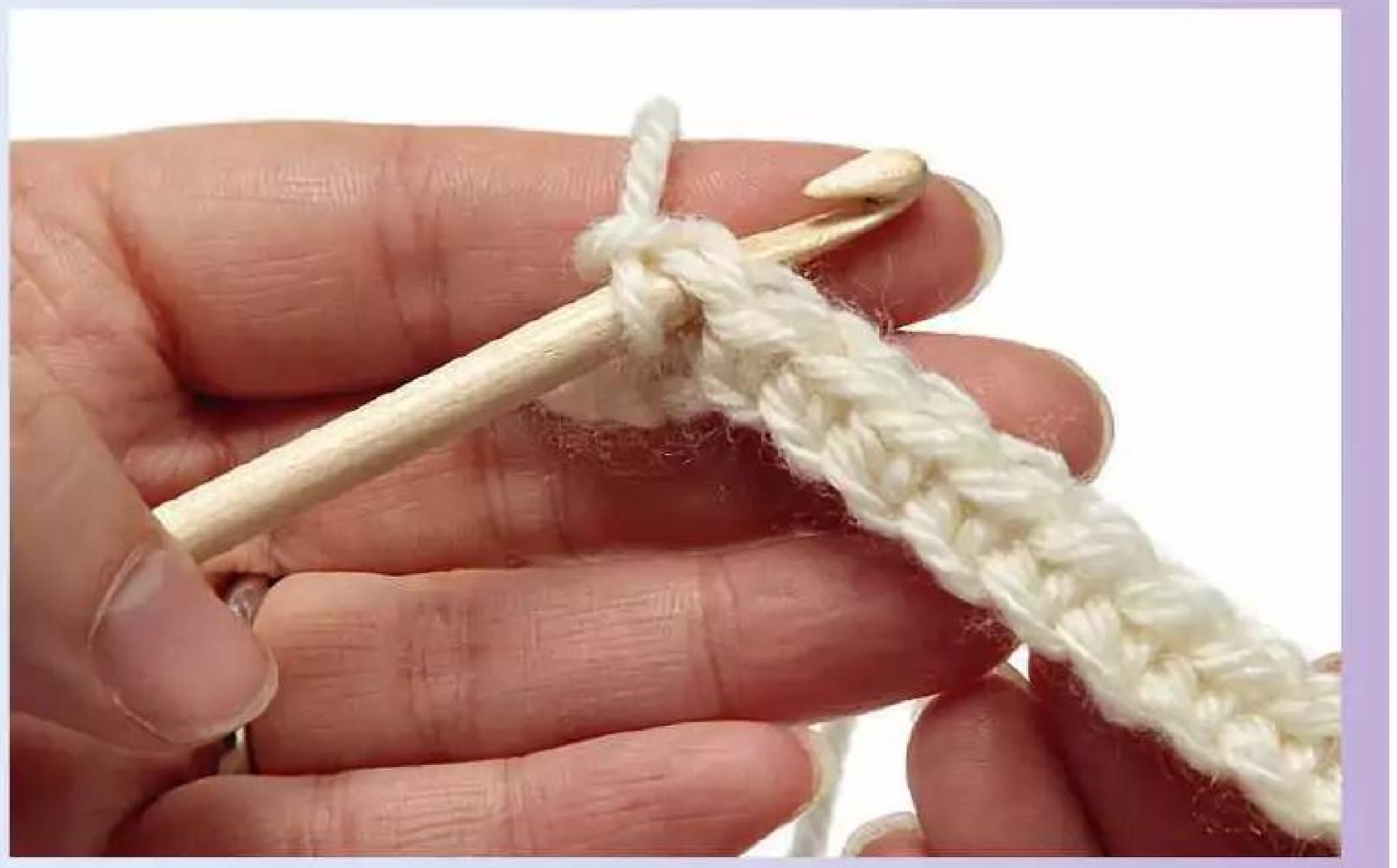
3 Work a double crochet stitch into the top of each stitch across the row. To finish, work into the last double crochet stitch.



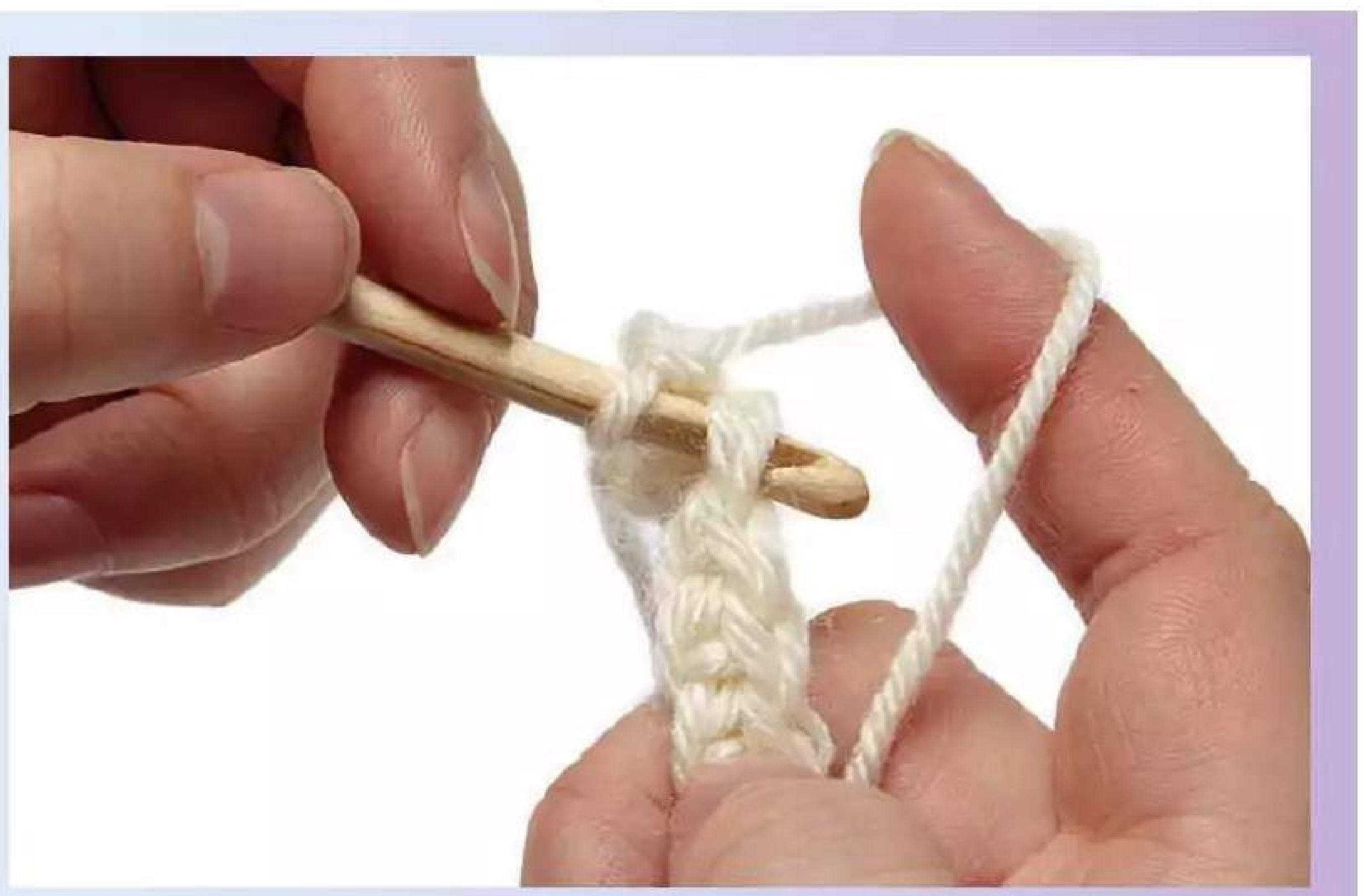
4 Make sure you do not work a stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous row. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

LEFT-HAND

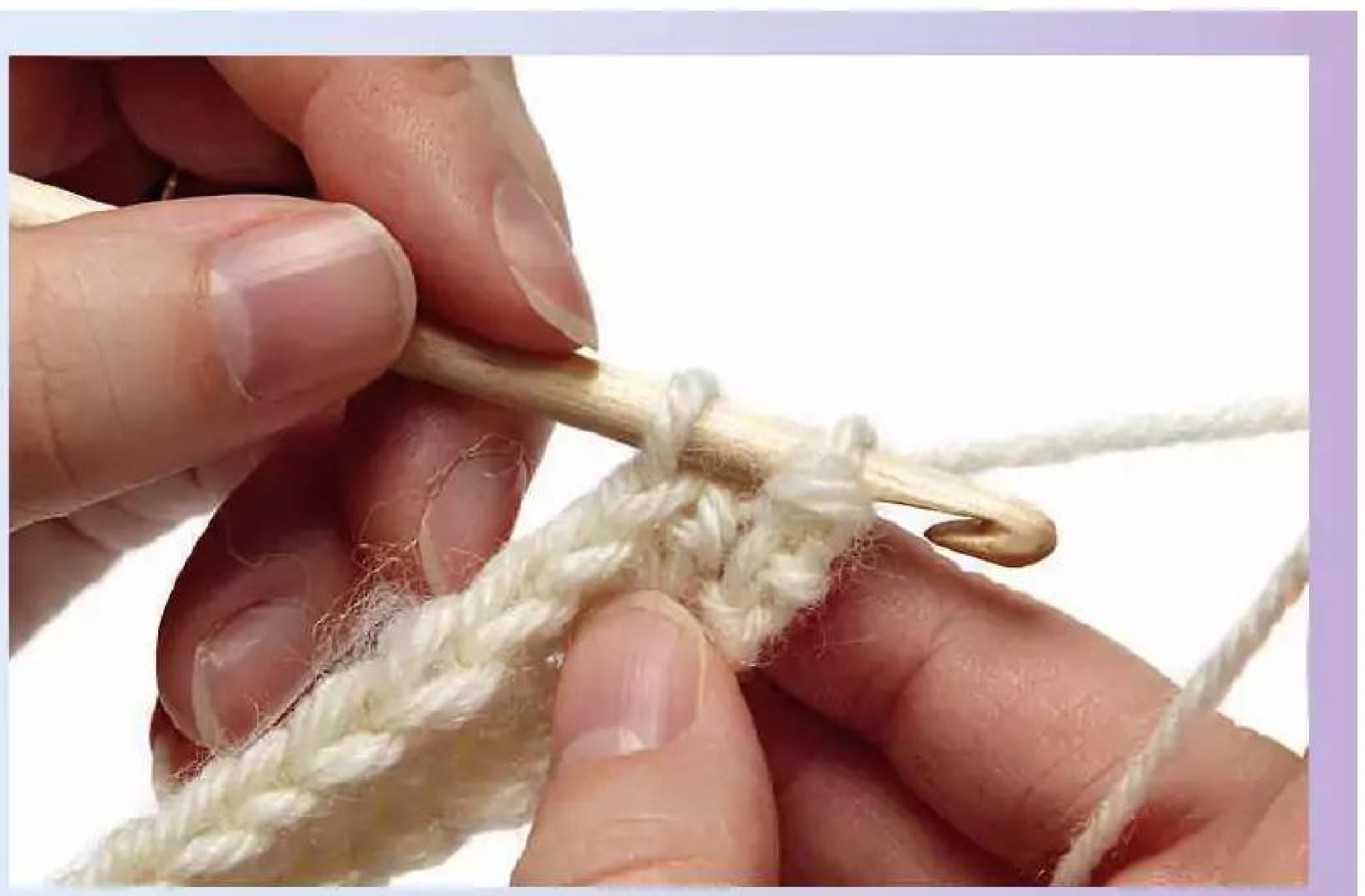
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of double crochet...



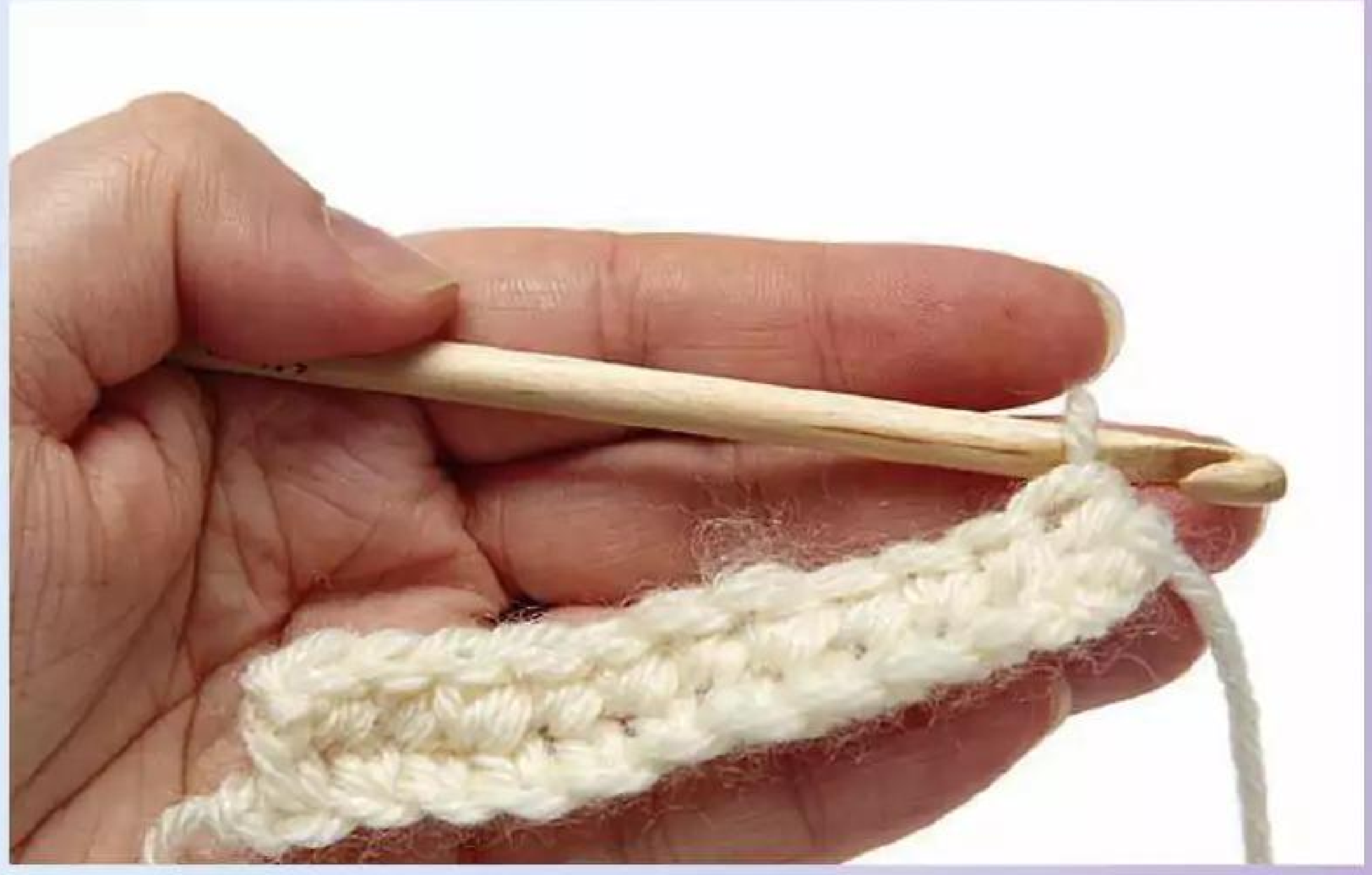
1 Turn and work one chain (this is the turning chain, see below right). Insert hook under the v-shaped top of the first stitch from the previous row. Make sure the hook passes under both loops, as shown above.



2 Work a double crochet stitch in the same way as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through two loops on hook).



3 Work a double crochet stitch into the top of each stitch across the row. To finish, work into the last double crochet stitch.



4 Make sure you do not work a stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous row. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

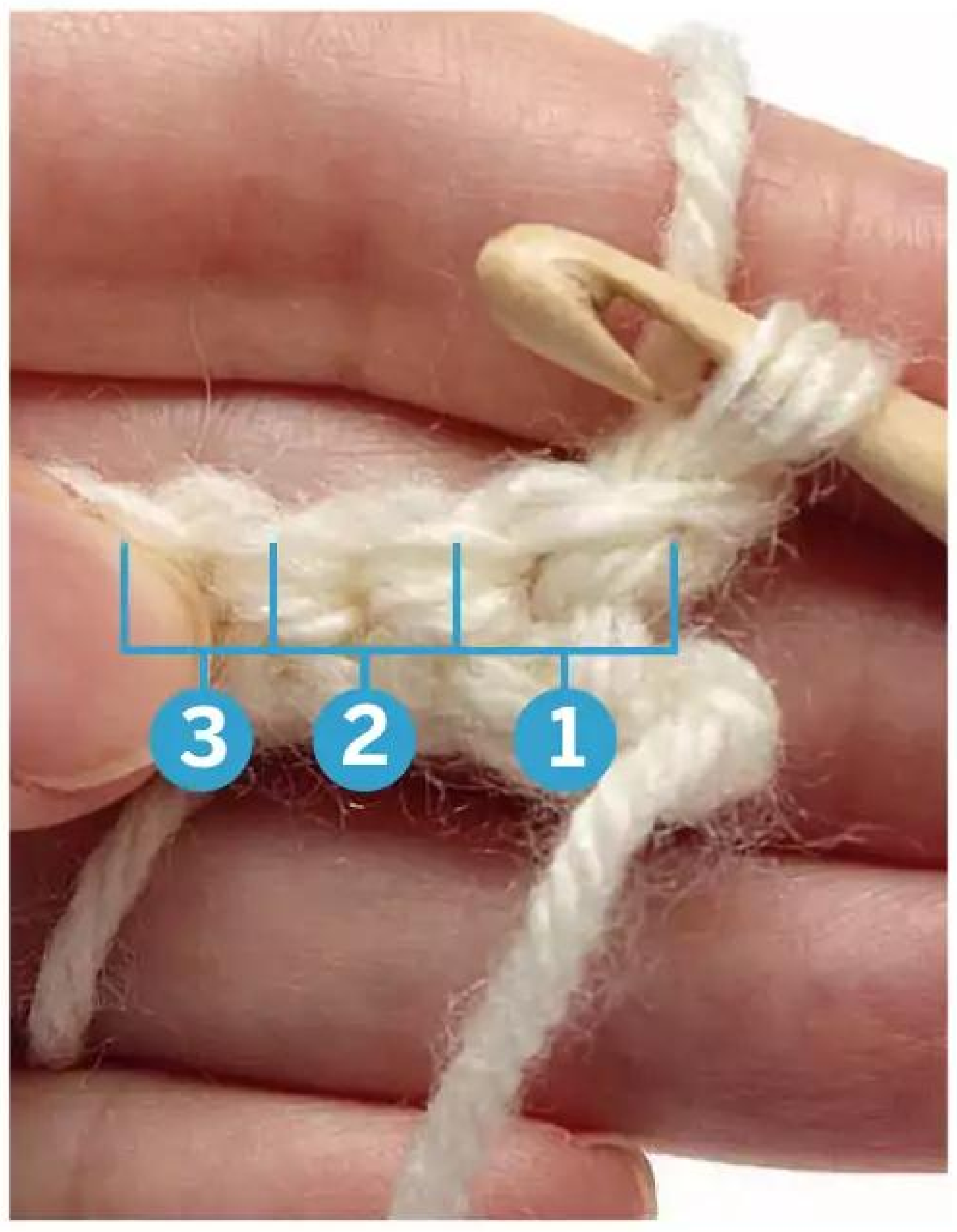
TURNING CHAINS

Use these 'extra' stitches to bring the hook up to the height of the next row

After each row of double crochet stitches, you need to turn the fabric and work the turning chain (this is abbreviated as t-ch). The picture (right) shows the work turned and ready to work the t-ch (one chain for double crochet) – the numbers show where to work the dc stitches of the second row.

So what's a turning chain? In crochet, you need to make a t-ch at the start of every row to bring the hook up to the working height of the stitches in the next row. You usually do this at the start of a row, but it was traditionally worked at the end of the row, hence its name.

Different stitches need a different length of t-ch. When working dc fabric, you can largely just ignore the t-ch because it usually does not count as a stitch (unless the pattern states otherwise). We'll have more on this later.



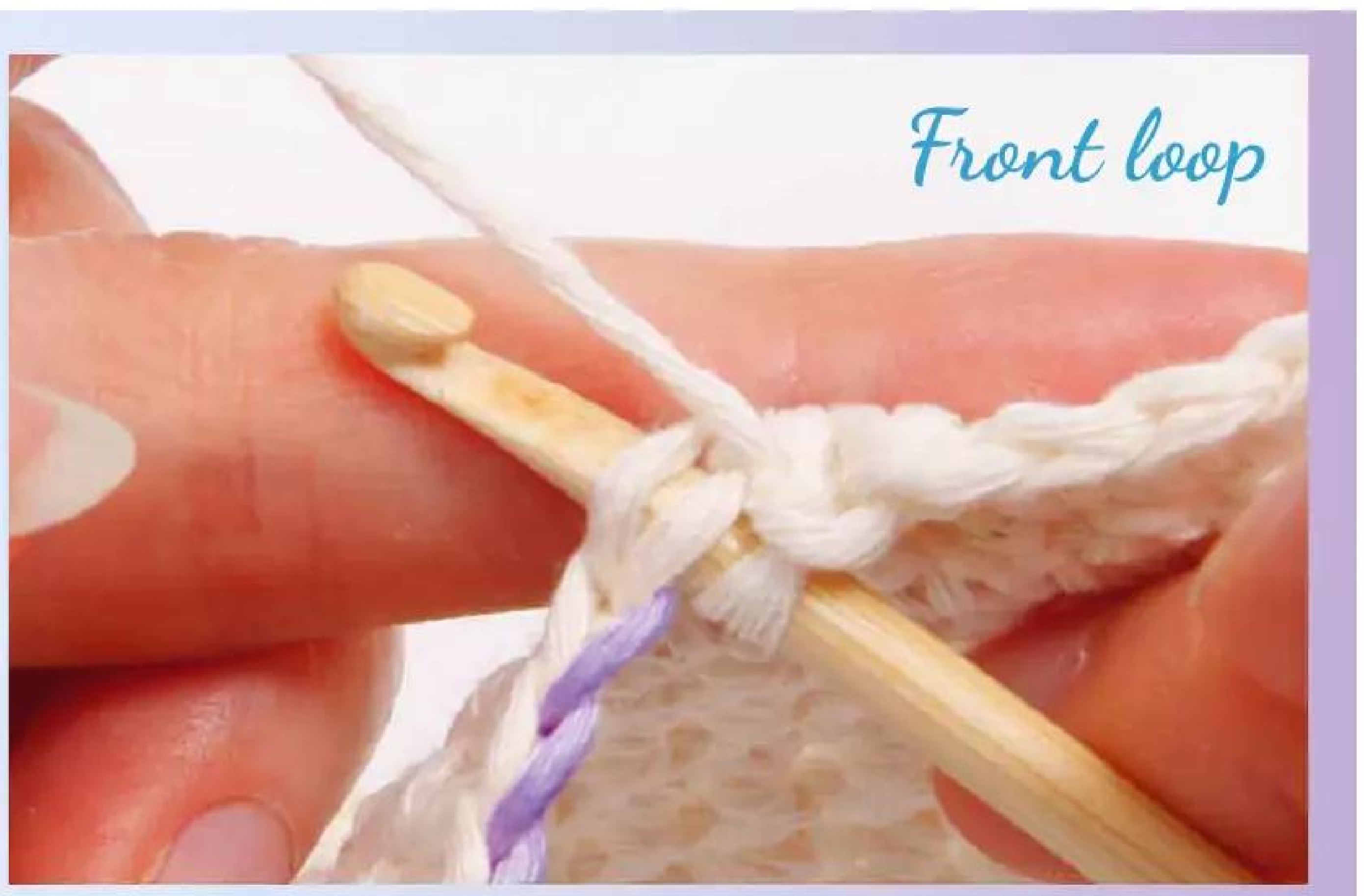
STITCH ANATOMY

How to work into the back loop or front loop of a stitch

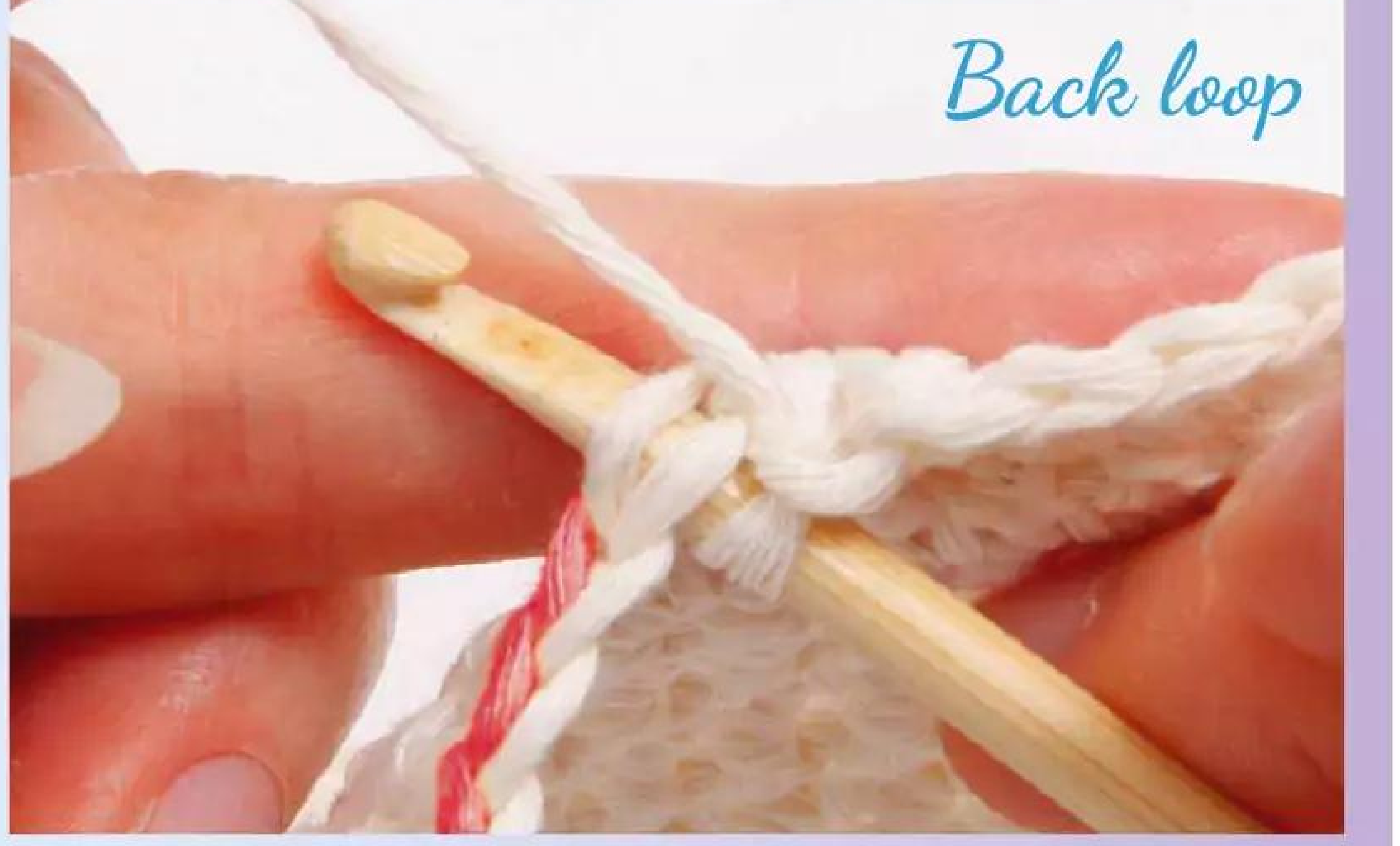
When you first start to crochet, it's very easy to work into the wrong part of the stitch on the row below until you get used to it.

You'll have seen by now that each stitch forms a neat 'v' shape at the top. Usually, you insert the hook under both strands of yarn that form that v-shape at the top. This stitch anatomy is important to understand because sometimes a pattern will ask you to insert the hook under just one of these strands and work a stitch. If you're asked to work into the 'front loop', this is the part of the v-shape that's closest to you while working the new row. The 'back loop' is the strand of yarn that's farthest from you (see below). If the pattern doesn't specify, insert the hook under both loops.

RIGHT-HAND

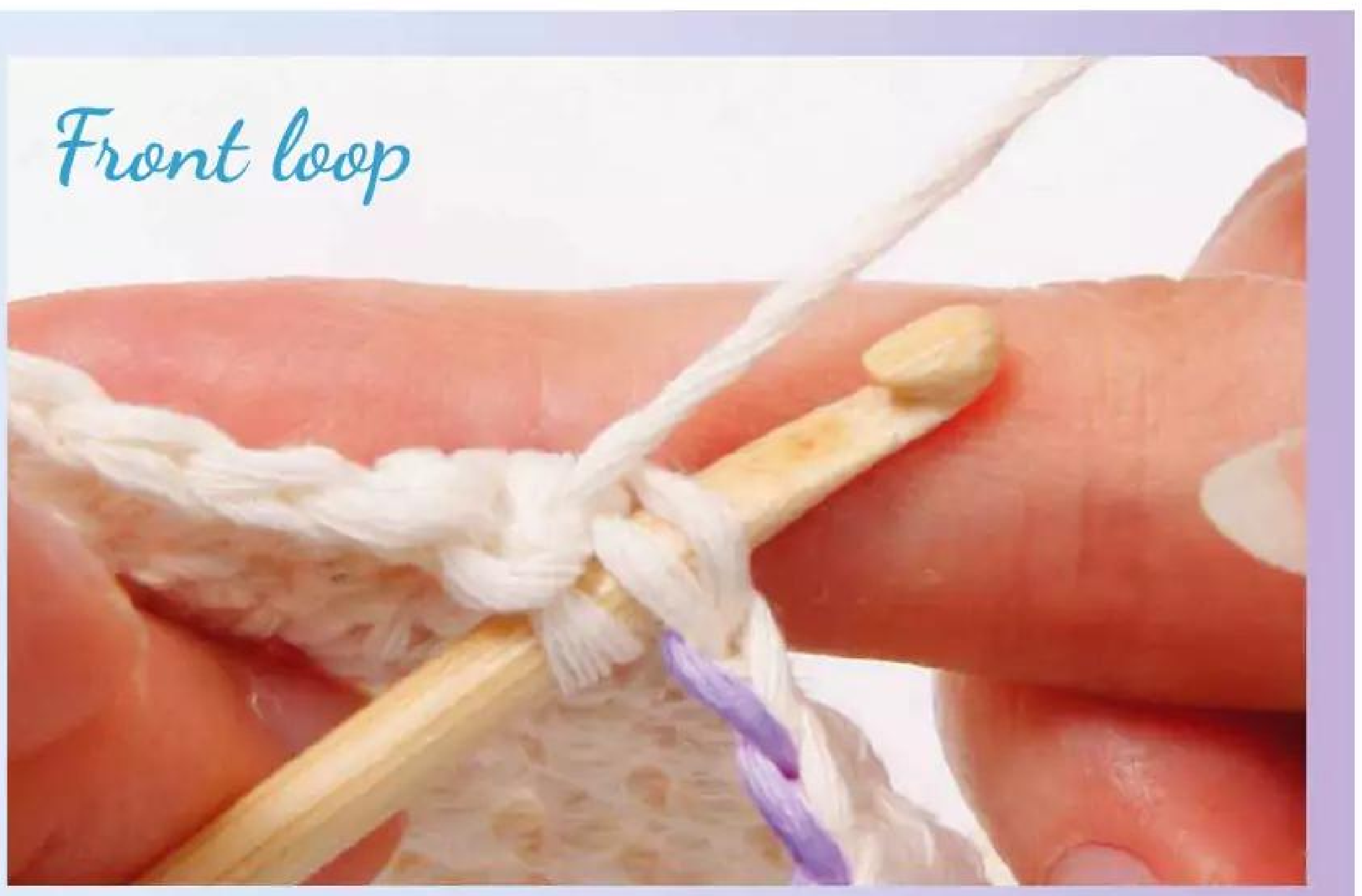


If you're right-handed, the 'front loop' of the v-shaped top of the stitch is the strand of yarn that's closest to you while you're working, shown in purple above. The hook in the photo is inserted under both loops.

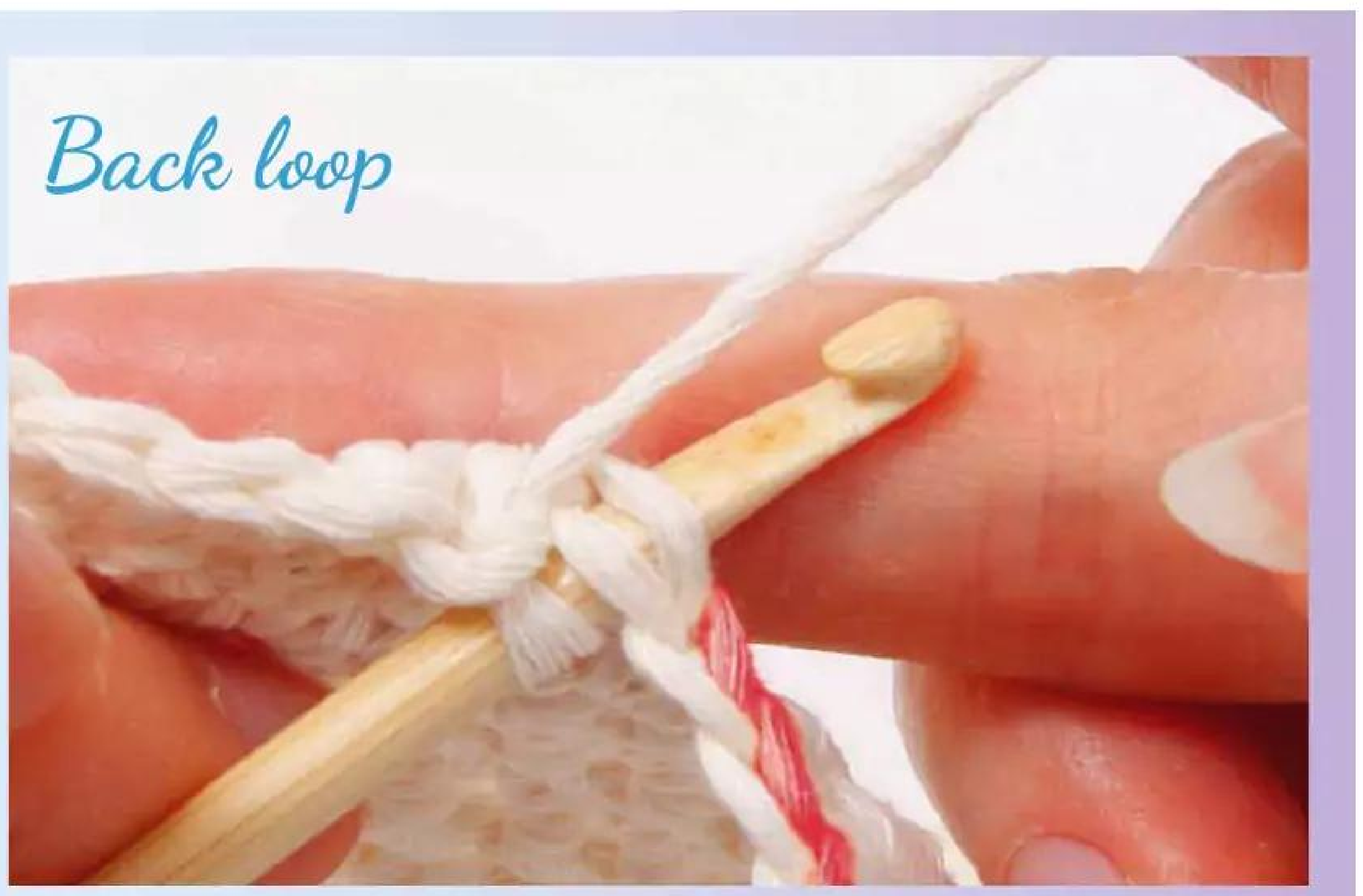


In comparison, the 'back loop' of the top of the stitch is the strand of yarn that's farthest away from you while you're working, shown in red above. The hook in the photo is inserted under both loops.

LEFT-HAND



If you're left-handed, the 'front loop' of the v-shaped top of the stitch is the strand of yarn that's closest to you while you're working, shown in purple above. The hook in the photo is inserted under both loops.



In comparison, the 'back loop' of the top of the stitch is the strand of yarn that's farthest away from you while you're working, shown in red above. The hook in the photo is inserted under both loops.

DOUBLE CROCHET FRILL

Dress up a simple T-shirt or top with **Nicky Hale**'s gorgeous little button-studded ruffle.

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Wendy, Supreme Luxury Cotton DK (100% mercerised cotton, 100g/201m), approx 30g of Cream (1851)

HOOK

- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

NOTIONS

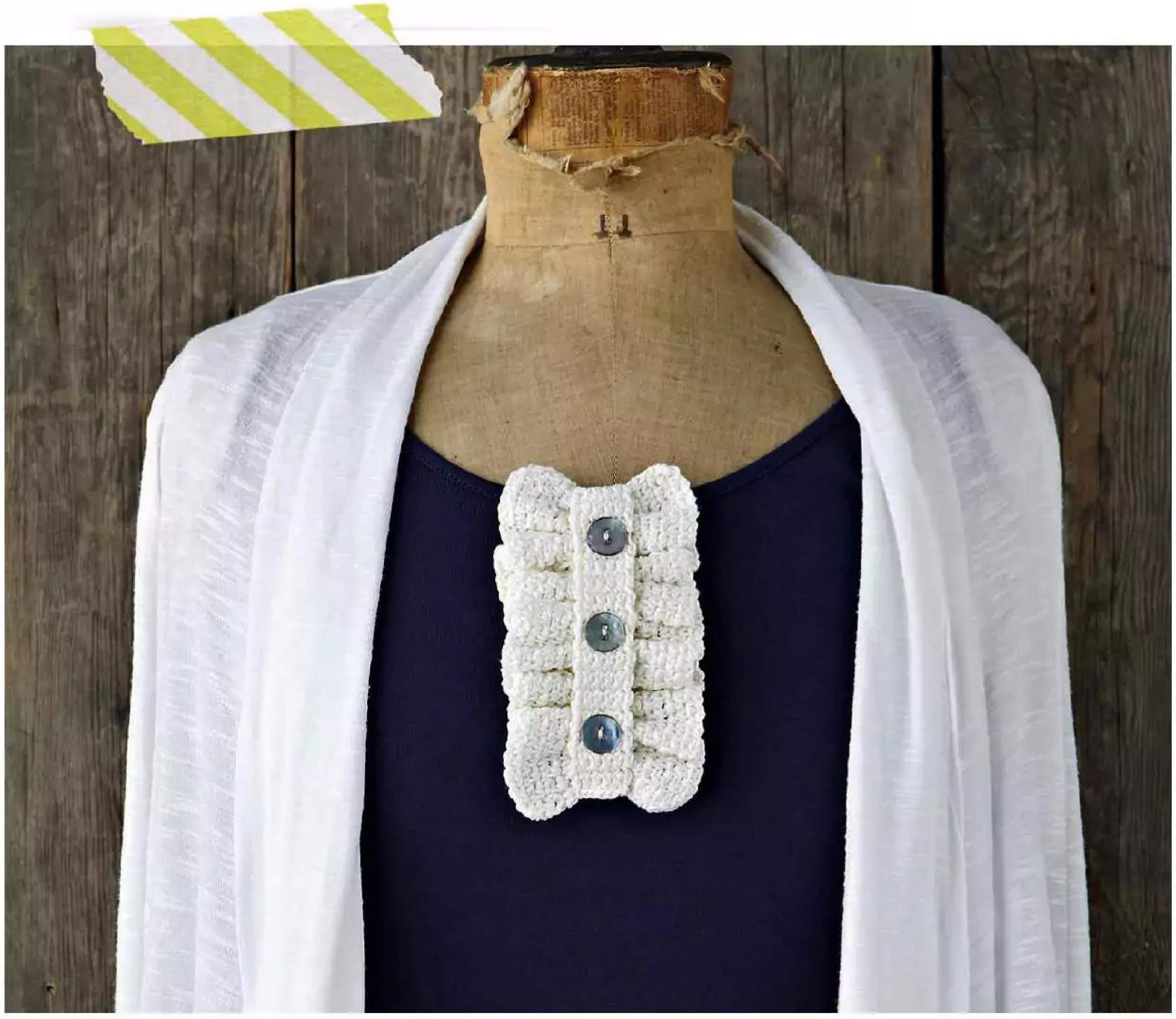
- Three 15mm buttons
- Needle and matching thread

TENSION AND SIZE

Tension is not critical for this project. Finished size 12.5x7.5cm (5x3in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 18



MAIN PIECE

Ch90.

Row 1 (RS) Dc into the second ch from the hook, dc into each ch to end, turn. [89 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st, dc into each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the same st, *ch1, skip the next st, dc into the next st; repeat from * to end, turn.

Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the same st, *dc into the next ch-1 sp, ch1, skip next st; repeat from * to the last st, dc into the last st, turn.

Row 5 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the same st, *ch1, skip the next st, dc into the next st; repeat from * to end, turn.

Rows 6-9 Repeat Rows 4 and 5 twice. Fasten off at the end of the last row.

Rotate work and join yarn at the corner of the foundation ch.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st, dc into each st to end, turn. [89 sts]

Rows 2-9 Repeat Rows 2 to 9 as above. Fasten off and weave in ends.

CREATING RUFFLE

Using a tapestry needle, thread a 50cm length of yarn. Work a 1cm wide running stitch along the second row of dc, from top to bottom, when reaching the bottom rotate and repeat up the other side, along the second row of dc, to the top.

Holding both ends of yarn, gather up your finished piece until it measures 12.5cm.

Secure by tying both ends together to create the ruffle and weave in ends.

CENTRAL BAND

This piece of the frill is worked from the bottom up.

Foundation row Join yarn to the end of the second dc row, ch1 (does not count as st), dc into the end of the same row, dc into the end of the first dc row, dc into the foundation chain, dc into the end of the first dc row on the other side of the ruffle, dc into the end of the second dc row on the other side of the ruffle, turn. [5 dc]

Rows 1-32 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the same st, dc into each of the next 4 sts, turn.

You may need to increase or reduce the number of rows worked to get the correct band length.

Row 33 When the band is the correct length, dc together the top of the band to the top centre of the ruffle working 1dc into the end of the second dc row, 1dc into end of first dc row, 1dc into foundation chain, 1dc into end of first dc row on other side of ruffle, 1dc into the end of the second dc row on the other side of the ruffle.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Place the buttons evenly along the band, stitching through the band and ruffle with the needle and matching thread to secure. Gently steam block to set the ruffle edges (see instructions on page 127)..

FASTEN OFF & WEAVE IN

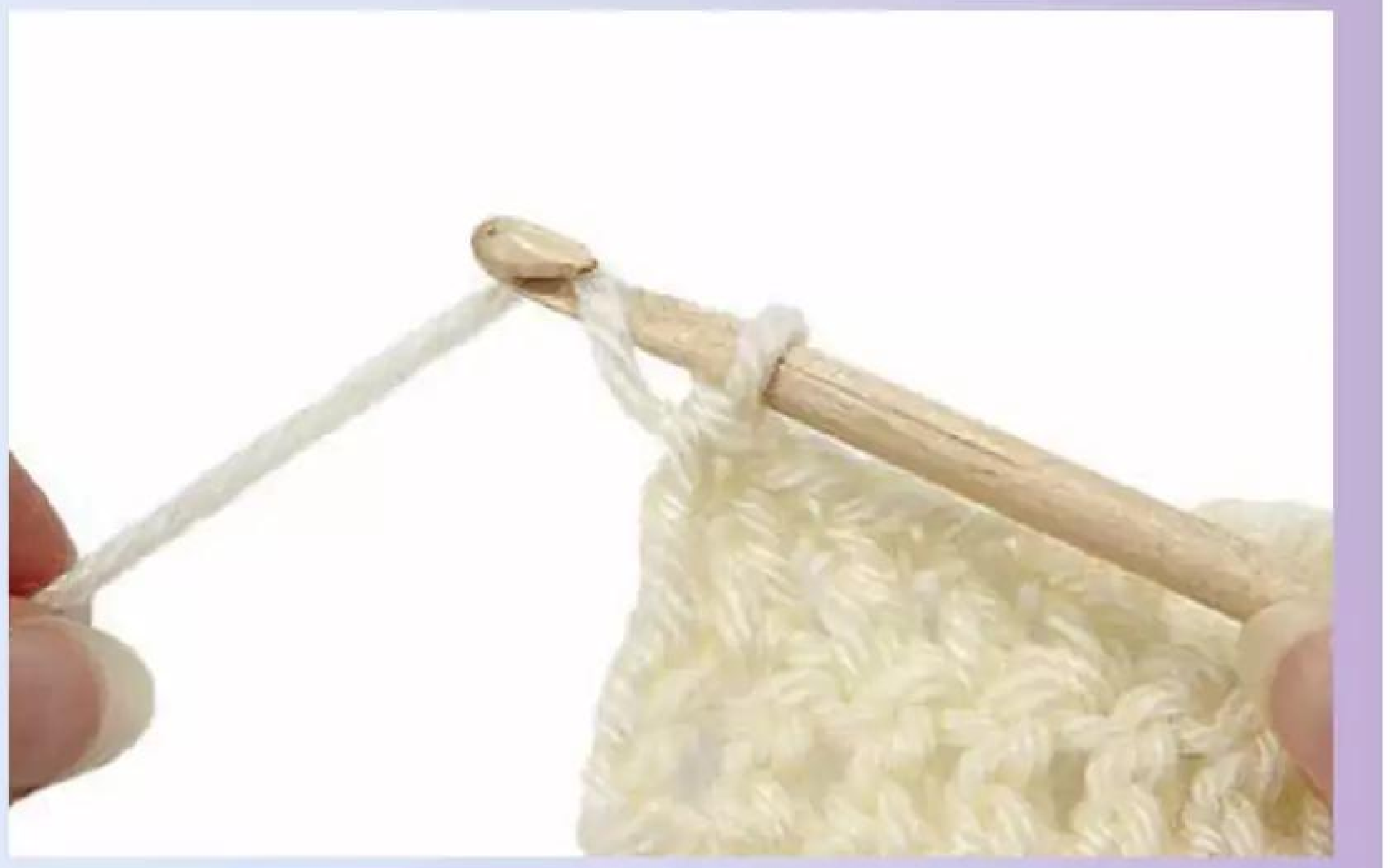
Secure and neaten the ends of your finished project

After all your crochet efforts, it's worth taking the time to finish your work properly, so that it doesn't unravel on you!

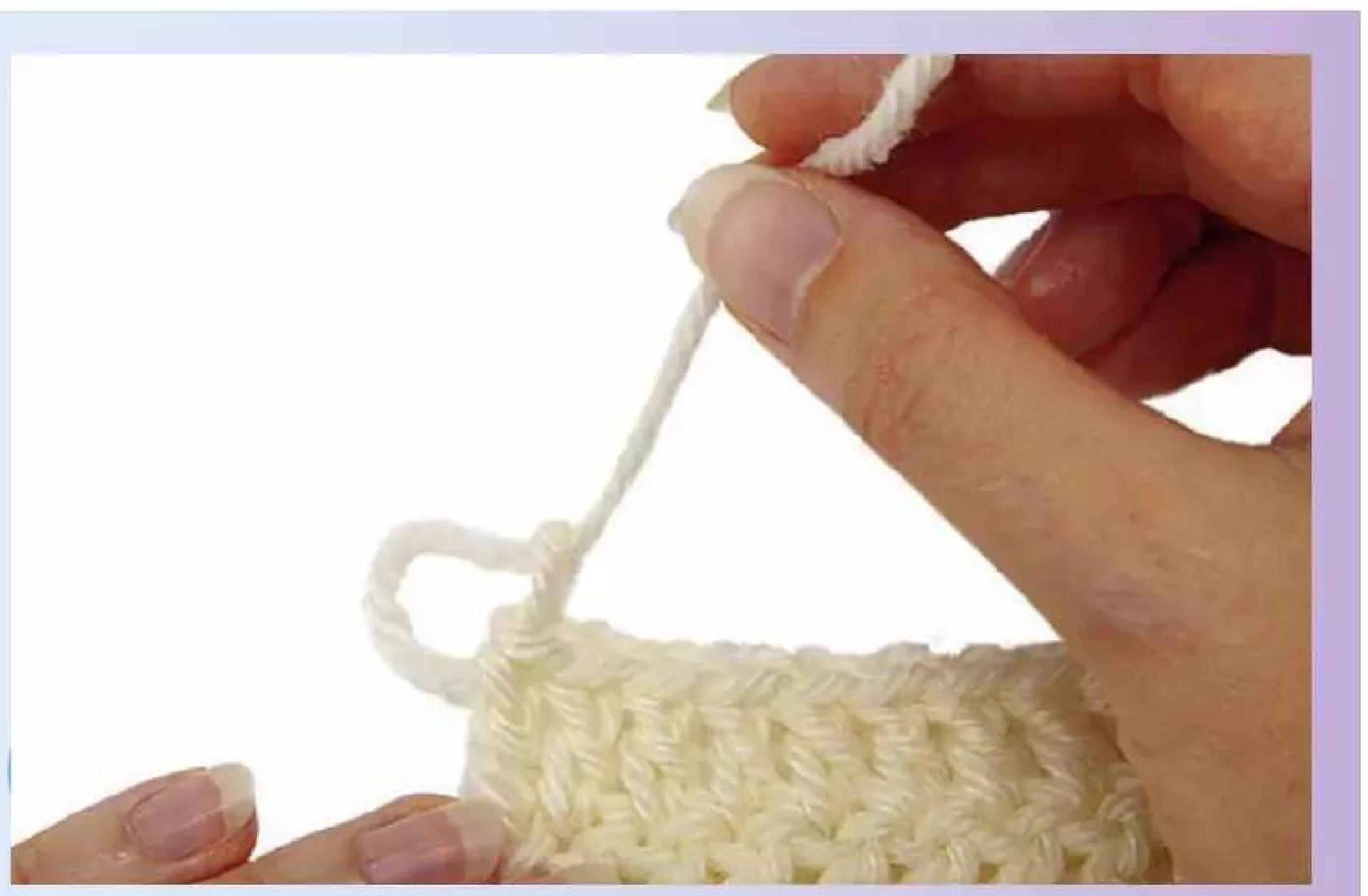
Once you've worked the last stitch in a pattern, you'll be instructed to 'fasten off'. Follow the steps below to safely pull the yarn tail through the final loop and secure it. You'll then be left with a 15cm (6in) tail end of yarn here, and also at the start of your project, where you made the slipknot.

These ends will look rather straggly unless you do something with them. To create a neat finish, patterns will instruct you to 'weave in ends'. This simply involves weaving yarn ends through the backs of stitches on the wrong side of your work, using a large-eyed needle with a blunt tip.

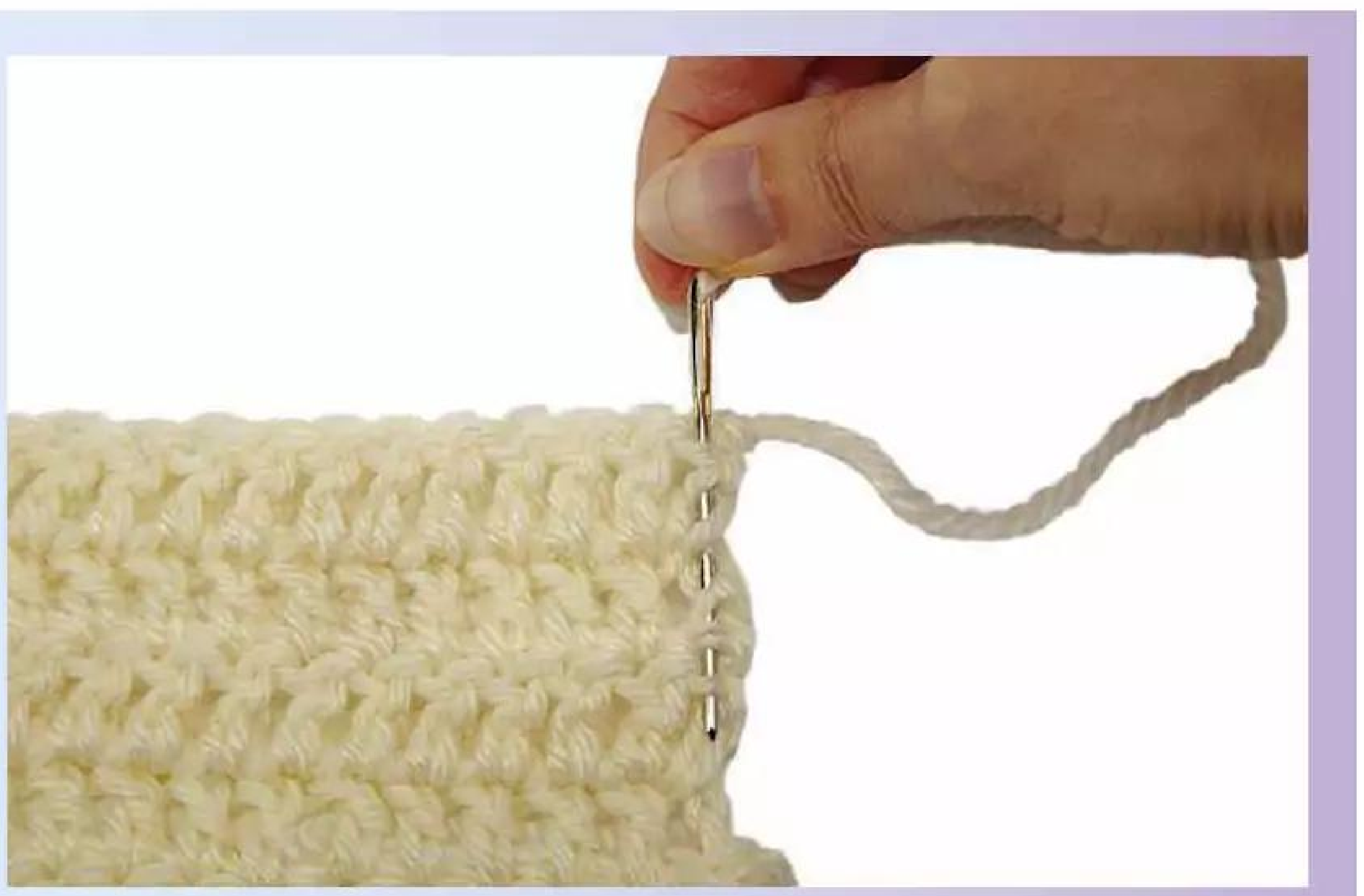
There are no strict rules about how to weave in the tail ends of yarn – they just need to be secure and invisible from the front. It's a good idea to weave the yarn tail in different directions to prevent it from being pulled out over time. Once you progress, you'll find that it's possible to work stitches over the starting tail end so there's less weaving in to do at the end.



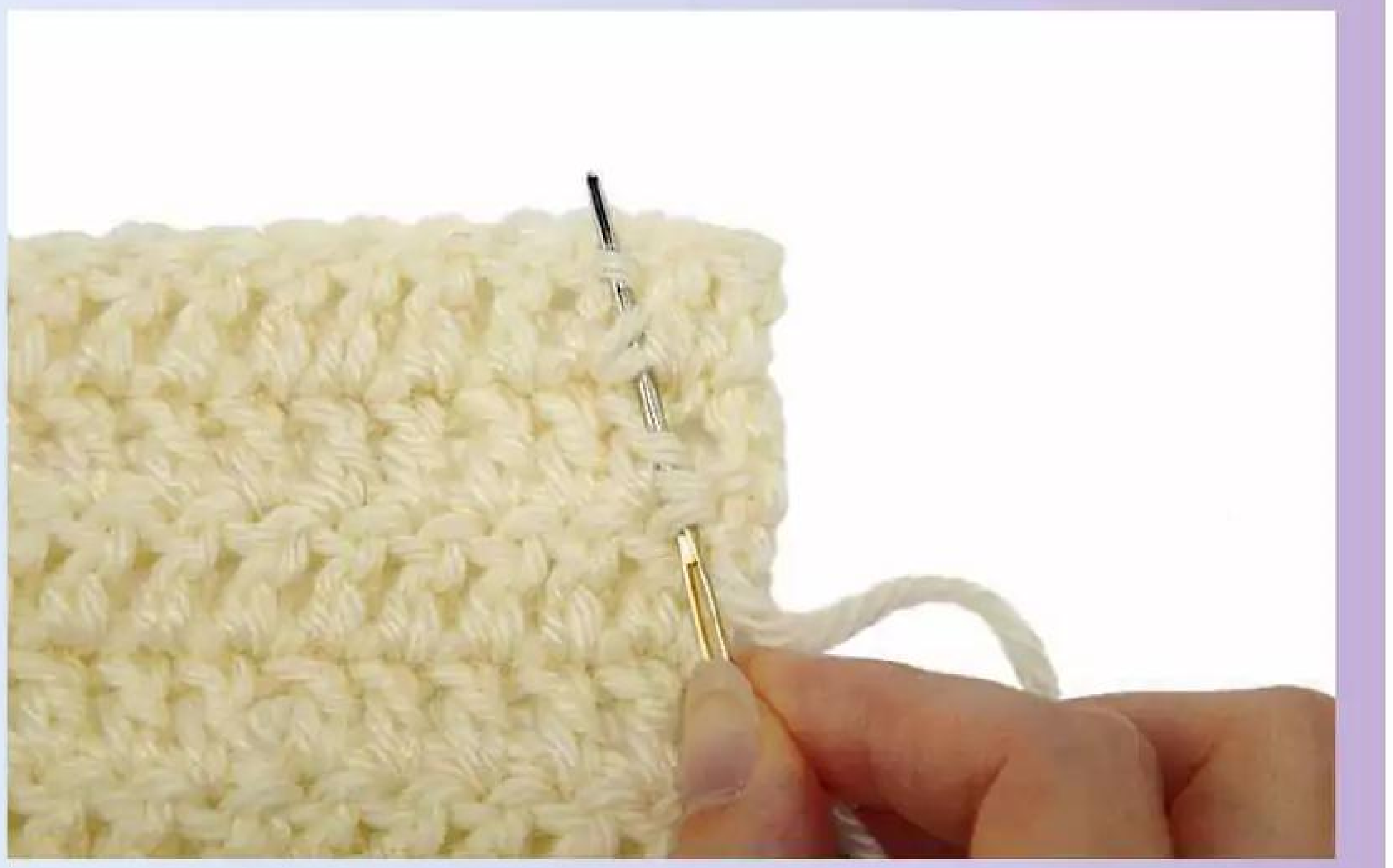
1 After working the last stitch, you'll have one loop left on your hook. Cut the yarn leaving a long tail, measuring around 15cm (6in) long. Wrap this yarn tail around the hook.



2 Use your hook to pull the yarn all the way through the stitch. Remove the hook and pull the yarn tail to tighten up the loop and secure it.



3 Thread the tail end of yarn onto a tapestry needle. On the wrong side, weave the needle in and out of the back of the stitches in one direction.



4 Weave the needle in the other direction, in and out of the back of the stitches. Repeat this process to secure the tail end, making sure that the woven yarn is not visible from the right side of the fabric.

CUTTING CREW

We take a look at the sharp end of knitting with our top pick of scissors and snips.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

❶ Perfect for cutting in tight spaces, these Softouch Spring action scissors come with Micro-Tip® blades. The spring action design opens the blades after each cut to reduce handstrain and an easy-open thumb lock provides safe storage when you're not using them.
£16, visit www.fiskars.co.uk for stockist details or call 01782 204141

❷ These sweet and petite Hemline Folding Craft Scissors with plastic handles and measuring just 3.17cm, are ideal for travelling or keeping for crochet emergencies in a project bag or handbag. £2.09, available from **www.minervacrafts.com or call 01254 708068**

❸ Left-handed knitters will love splurging on this pair of specialist scissors. But the benefits don't end there! The Go Green Left-Handed Scissors are produced from recyclable, non-toxic materials and are guaranteed for 10 years.
£6.95, call 01737 888269 or visit www.anythinglefthanded.co.uk

❹ This pair of quality Hemline Hobby Scissors come with a pretty floral design, stainless steel blades and sharp, fine points. They're suitable for all your general hobby and craft projects.
£5.69, visit www.woolwarehouse.co.uk or call 0800 505 3300

❺ Made of stainless steel, these stork scissors are the perfect addition to your crochet kit. Ergonomically designed, they sit comfortably in your hand.
£4.20, visit www.etsy.com /uk/shop/ PocketCraftSupplies

❻ Keep these sturdy Prym Thread Scissors on hand if you want a comfortable, soft grip and excellent quality blades! Or if you're after something a little more budget...

❼ ...these smaller Prym snips come with a protective cover for safety while crafting. Both are available from Jaycotts.
£12.99 (6) and £4.99 (7), visit www.jaycotts.co.uk or call 01244 394099

TREBLE CROCHET FABRIC

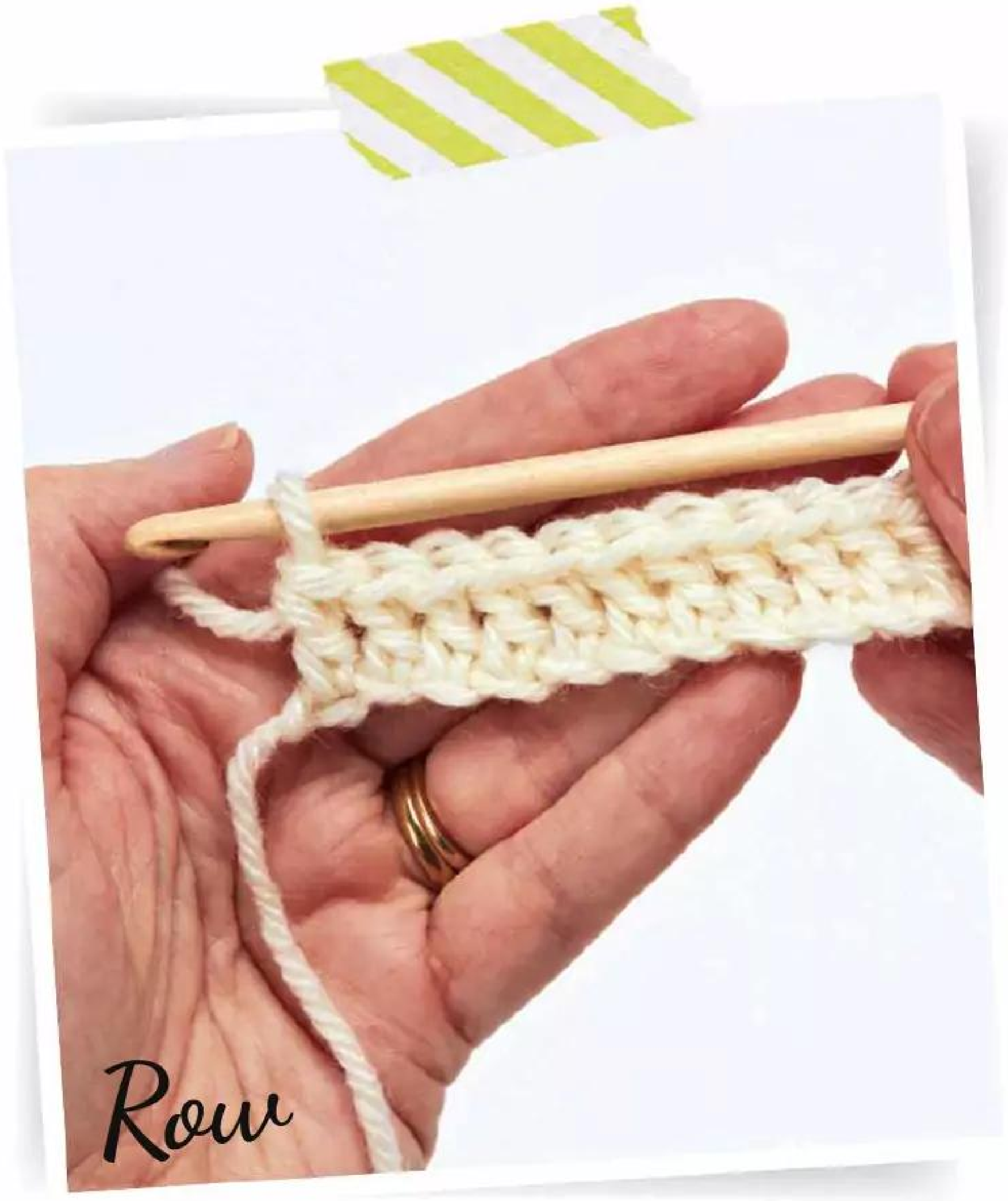
This very popular stitch forms a medium density fabric

After double crochet, the next stitch you'll need to know is treble crochet (called double crochet in the US). It's perhaps the most-used stitch in crochet, because it forms a fabric with just the right qualities: fairly dense and warm but not too stiff, with a lovely drape.

A treble crochet stitch is twice as high as a double crochet stitch, so the fabric grows quickly. The stitches sit fairly close together, but they're not as densely packed as double crochet stitches. This means that treble crochet fabric has small gaps, which allows it to drape more easily. It's still warm enough for winter makes, yet it's also breathable enough for summer makes. Make a swatch and you'll soon see why treble crochet is used for so many projects – it's a great all-rounder!

Below left is an example of treble crochet stitches worked in one row. Repeat these rows to create treble crochet fabric, shown below right. You'll see that the stitch pattern has a lacier texture than double crochet, with rows of dainty, upright stitches. In rows, treble crochet fabric looks the same on the front and the back, which can be useful. In rounds, treble crochet fabric gives a different effect on each side. Whichever method you're using to work the fabric, a pattern will always tell you which is the right side and which is the wrong side.

If you can work a double crochet stitch, the treble crochet stitch will be quick and easy for you to learn. Just follow our guide over the next few pages and then have a go at our stylish scarf project on page 50.

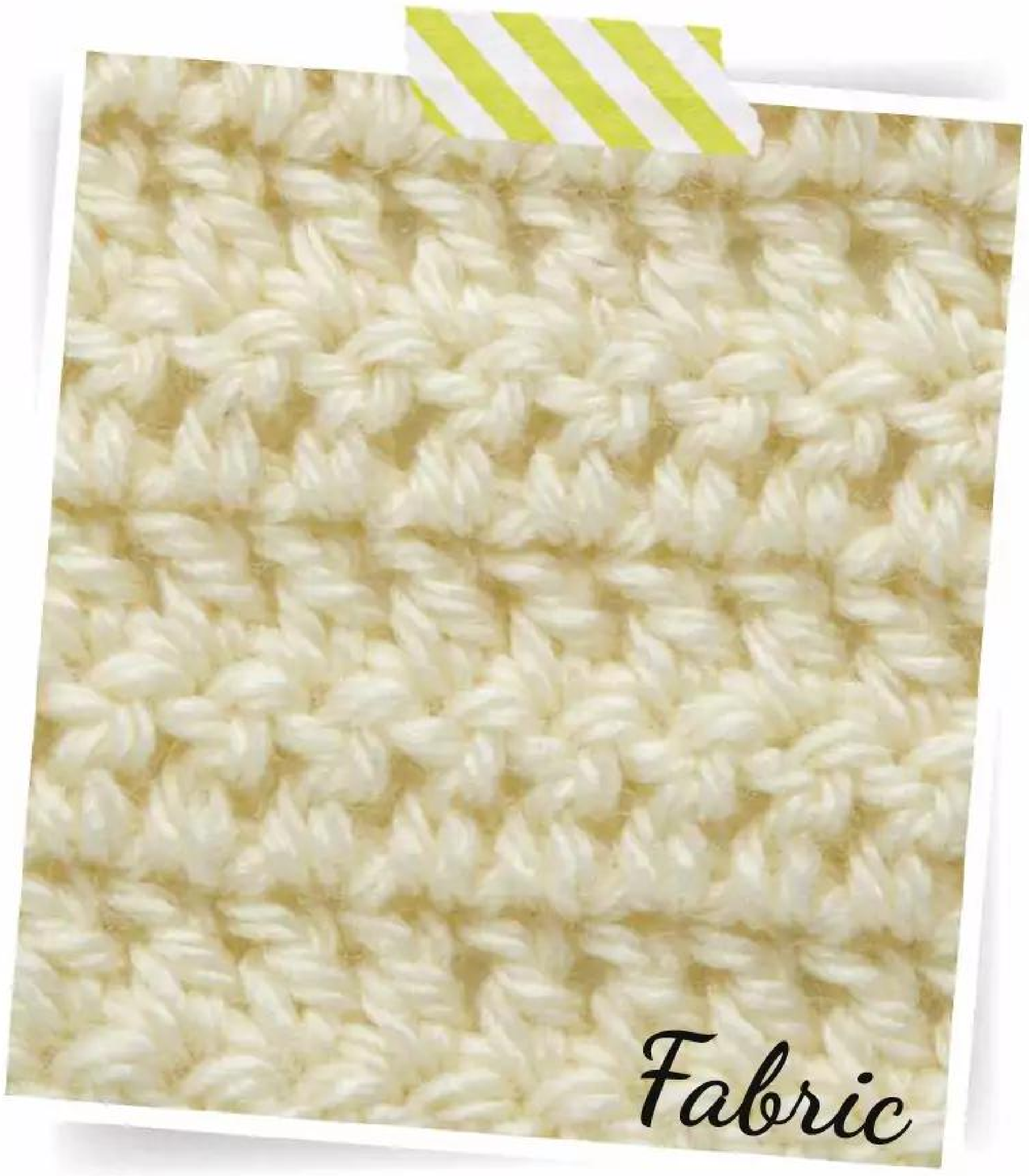


① TALL ROWS

Each treble crochet stitch is worked into each chain stitch, creating a lacy pattern on the side of the stitch and a neat 'v' shape at the top of the stitch. Treble crochet is abbreviated as 'tr' in patterns.

② LACY FABRIC

Treble crochet fabric is a warm, medium density fabric with a fairly loose drape. The tall stitches sit fairly close together and create a lacy texture.



HIP TO BE SQUARE

For every stitch you learn and practise, crochet up a square or two, using different colours if you want to. Then sew them all together to make a fab throw that will become a great reference guide. Try using DK yarn, a 4mm hook and about 22 stitches to make a 10cm (4in) square, or 33 stitches to make a slightly larger 15cm (6in) square. Make a foundation chain of 21 or 32 chains, then the turning chain of 3ch (counts as a stitch). Then work a treble stitch into each of the 21 or 32 chains to the end. Turn, make 3 turning chains and treble into the 2nd stitch and each stitch to the end. Repeat until you have a square, then fasten off.

TREBLE CROCHET FABRIC IDEAS

The textured fabric created using treble crochet stitches is ideal for great for any project. It's perhaps best known for its use in traditional granny squares, as shown.

TREBLE INTO CHAINS

How to work treble stitches into your foundation chain

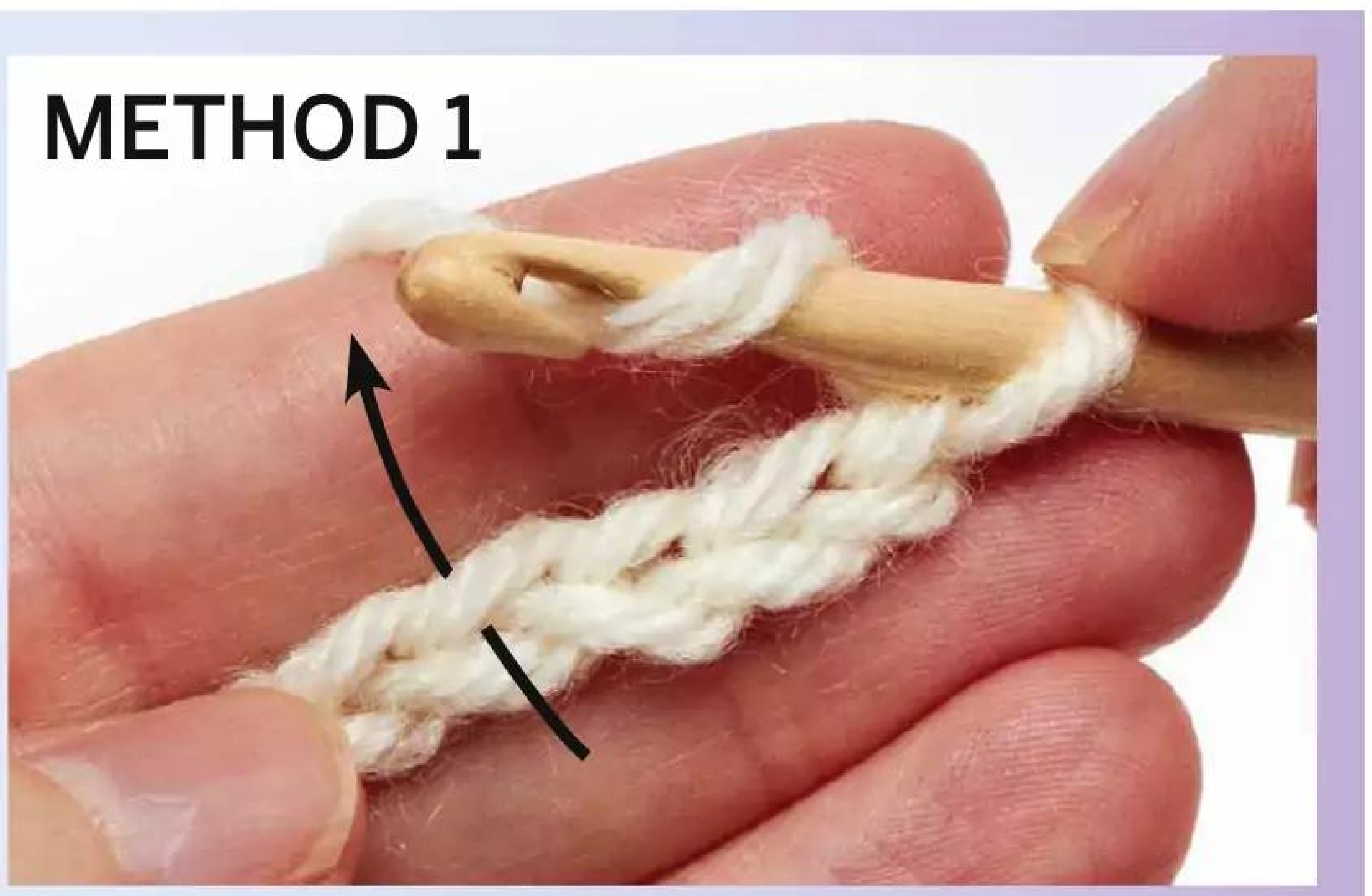
Start practising trebles by working a foundation chain (try 24 chains) and then use one of the methods below to work your first treble stitch into the foundation chain. One method might suit you better so try both.

Make sure you insert the hook under two loops of the chain stitch (the top front loop and the loop at the back of the chain). Some patterns ask you to insert the hook under just the top front loop of the chain, and you can also use this method if your chain is a bit tight. However, if your chain is very tight and hard to get your hook into, undo it and rework it using a larger hook. Then switch back to the smaller hook to work the following rows.

You'll find that Method 2 below gives a more solid finish to your fabric and will maintain the plaited look of the front of the chain, which gives your work a neater finish.

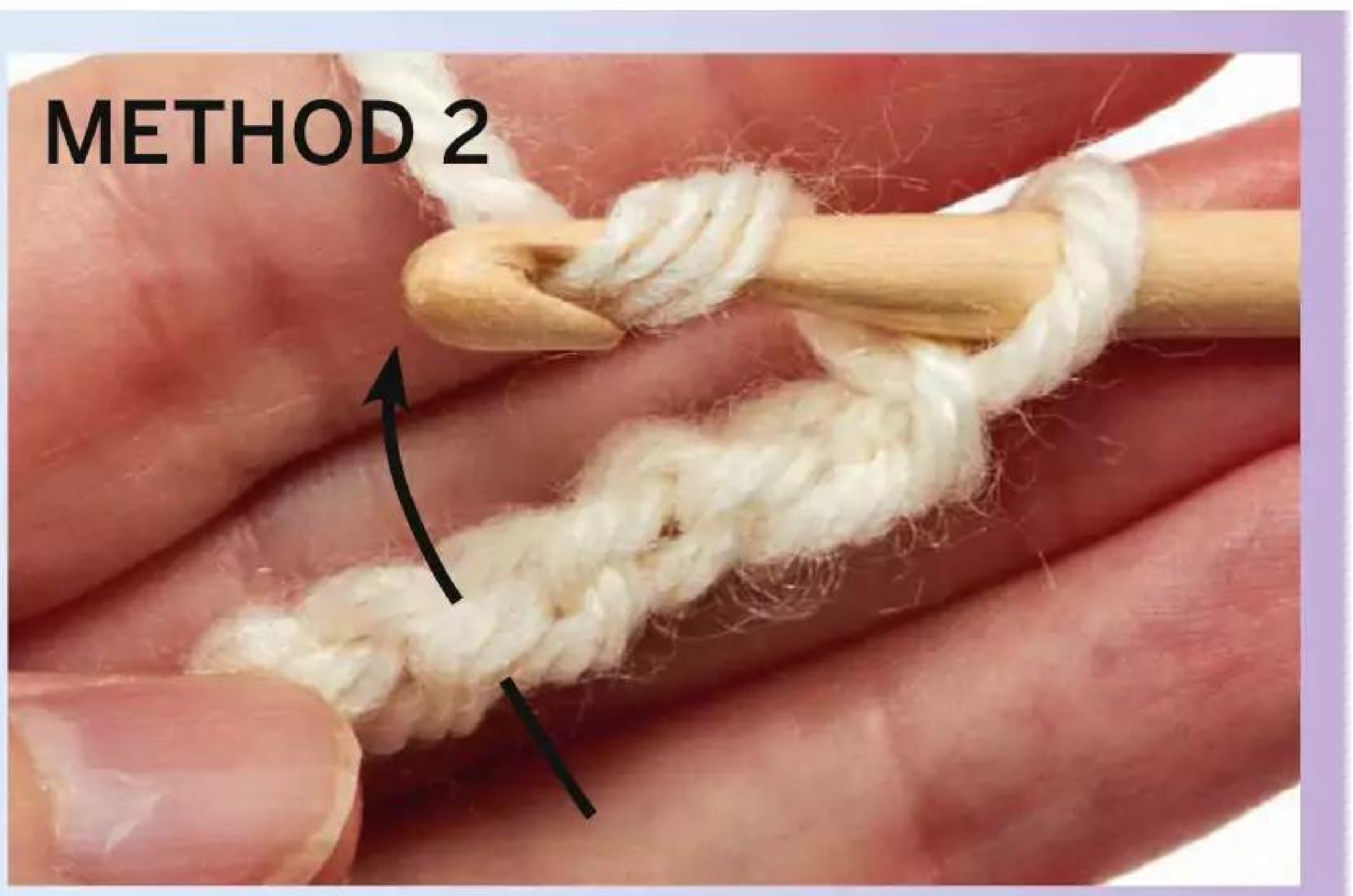
RIGHT-HAND

METHOD 1



When working treble crochet, wrap yarn round the hook first, then insert the hook into the 4th chain from the hook, as shown above. Then continue your first treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

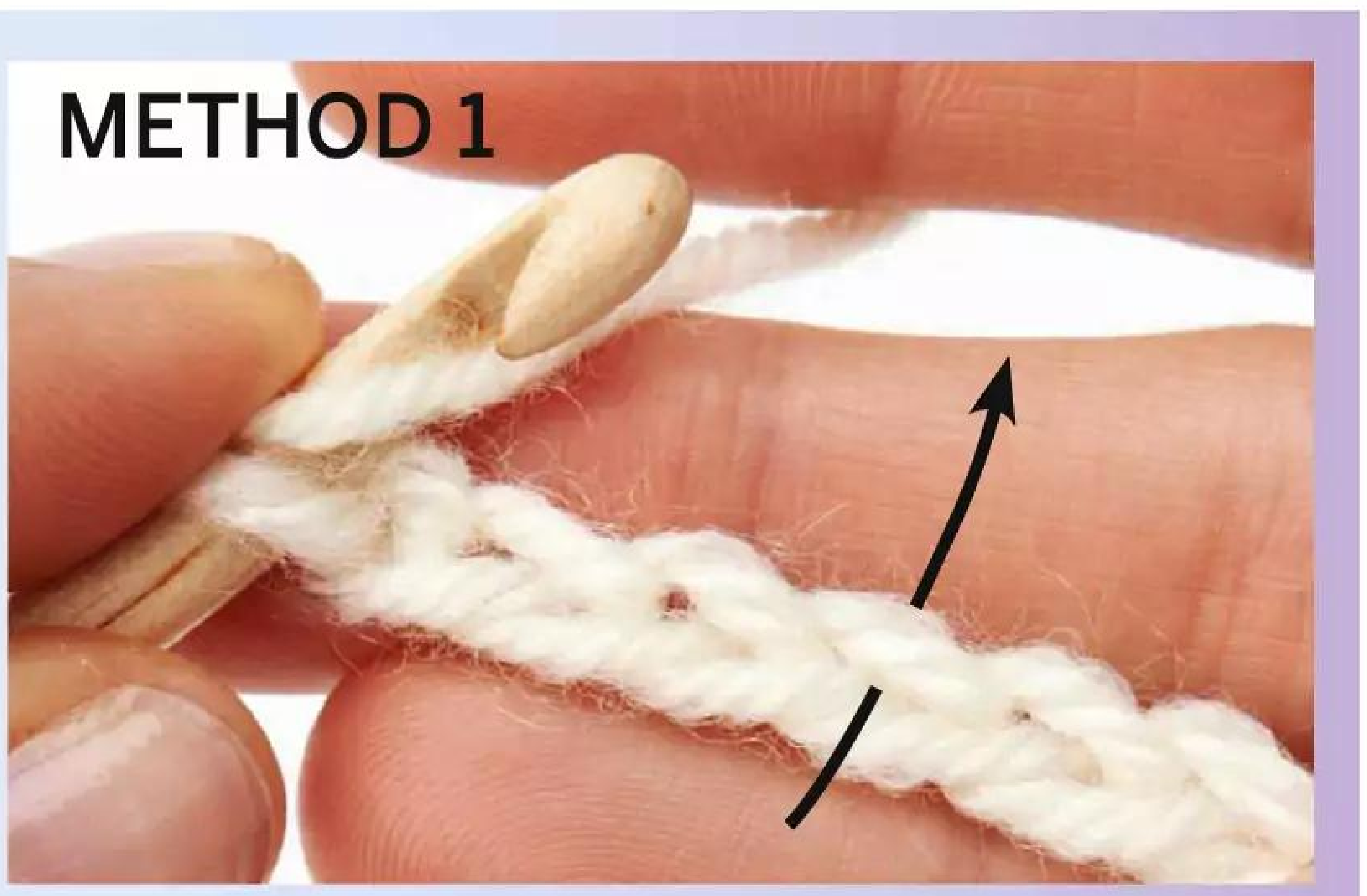
METHOD 2



Wrap the yarn round the hook first for treble crochet. Then insert your hook into the 4th bump from the hook, on the back of the chain. Then continue your first treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

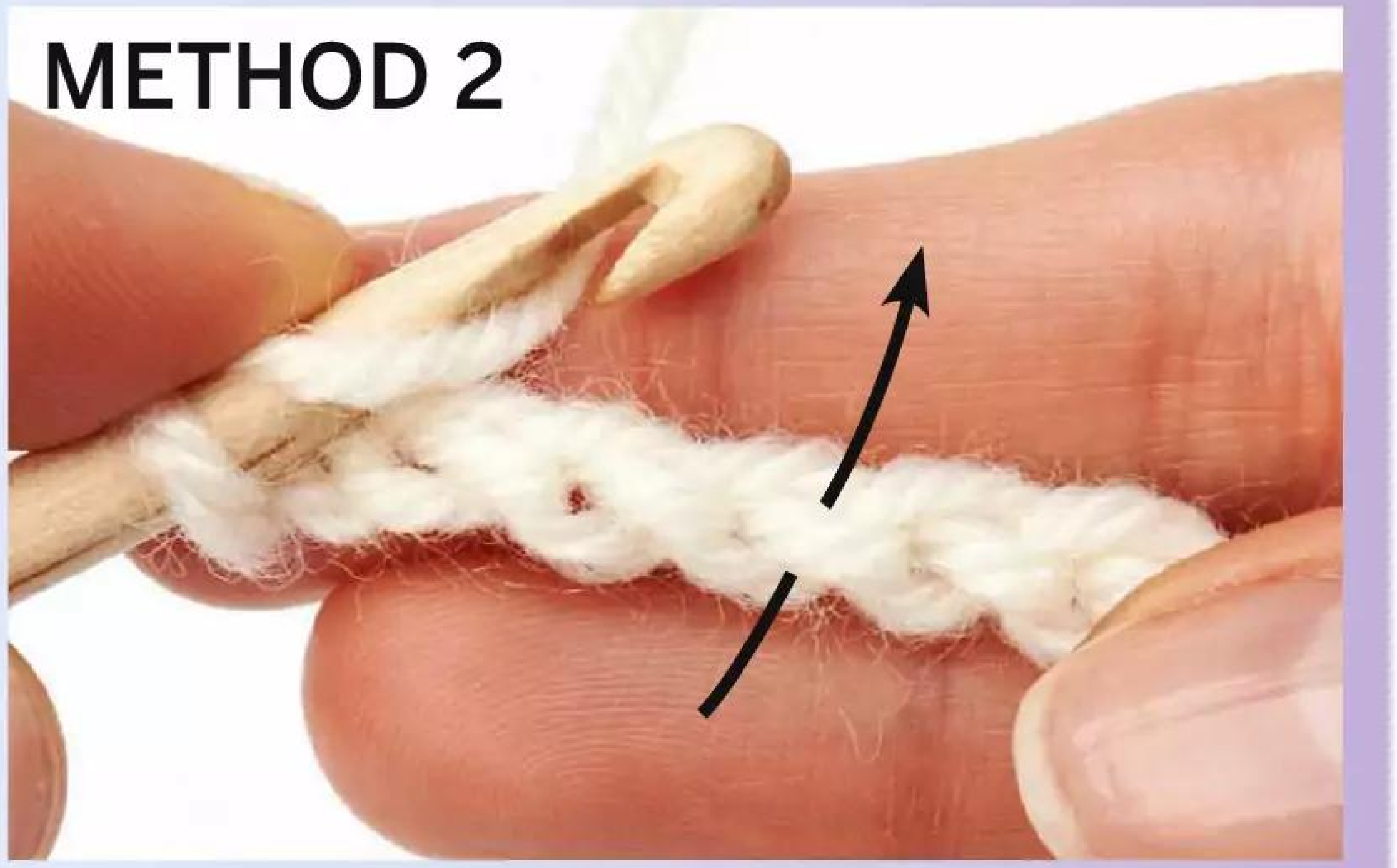
LEFT-HAND

METHOD 1



When working treble crochet, wrap yarn round the hook first, then insert the hook into the 4th chain from the hook, as shown above. Then continue your first treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

METHOD 2



Wrap the yarn round the hook first for treble crochet. Then insert your hook into the 4th bump from the hook, on the back of the chain. Then continue your first treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

TREBLE CROCHET STITCH

Create your next crochet stitch – it's very simple to do

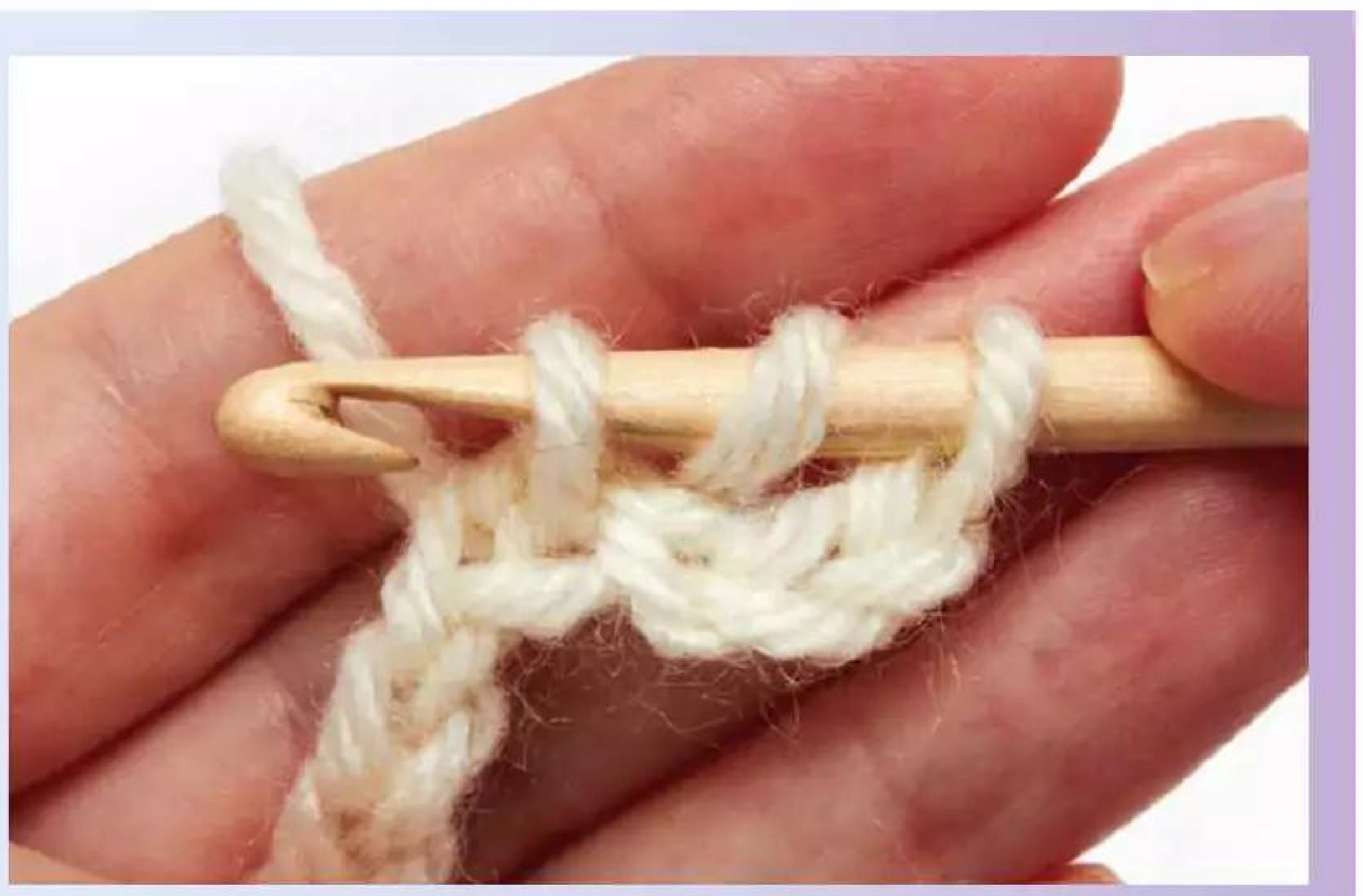
Once you have a foundation chain made of 24 chains and you've inserted the hook (with yarn wrapped round) into the 4th chain from the hook, you can make your first treble stitch (see how to do it below). It's just as easy as double crochet, there are just a few more 'yrh's to do as you go!

Work a treble crochet stitch into each chain, holding the stitches firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go. Don't worry if it looks uneven – keep going to the end of the chain (don't work into the slipknot).

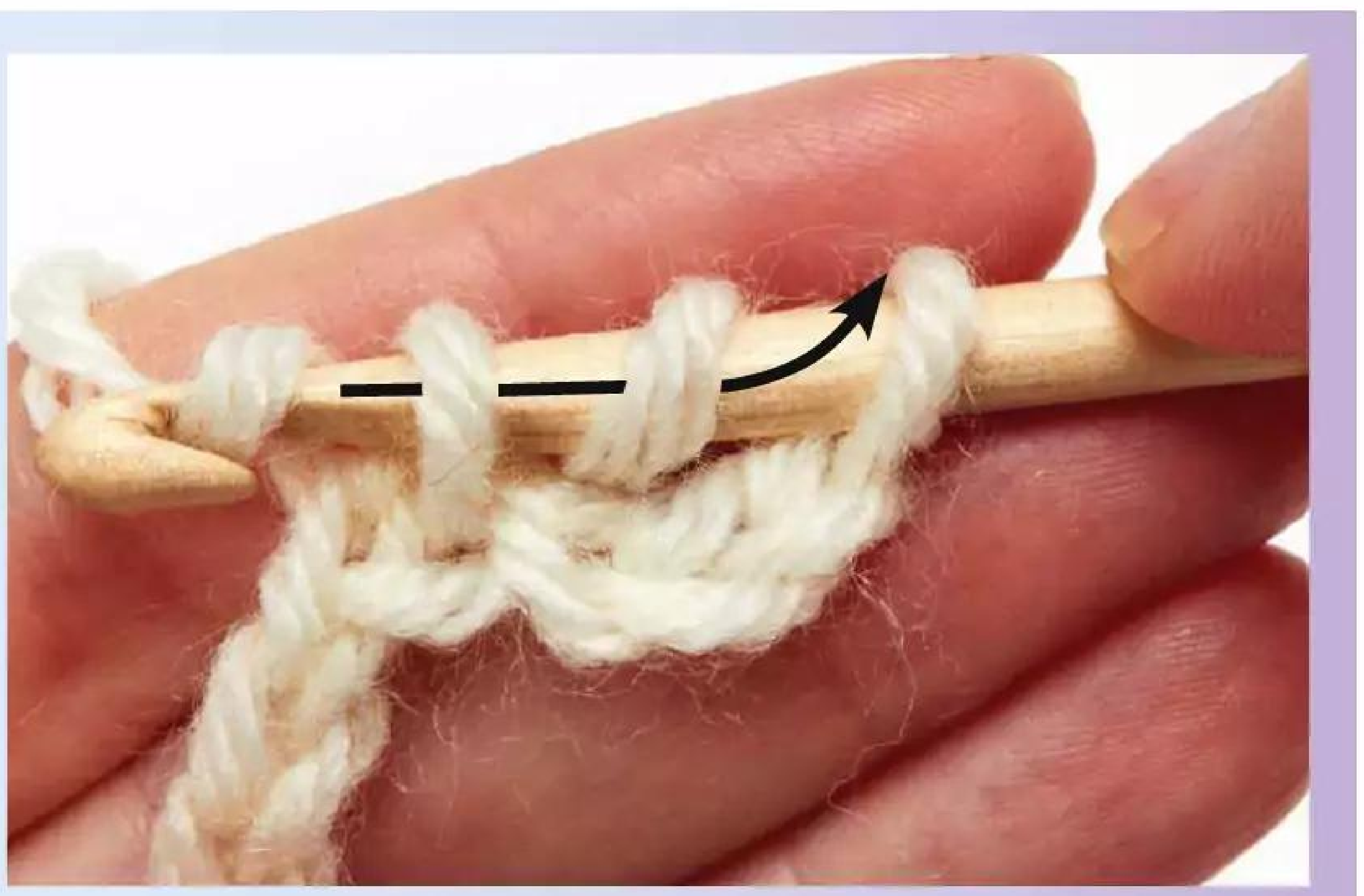
Once you've completed the first row of trebles (often called the foundation row), follow our guide (below right) to count your stitches – you should have 22 stitches. The first three chains that you skipped at the start form the turning chain, which will usually count as one stitch in treble crochet (we've explained in more detail overleaf), unless your pattern tells you not to count it as a stitch. Don't forget to count it.

RIGHT-HAND

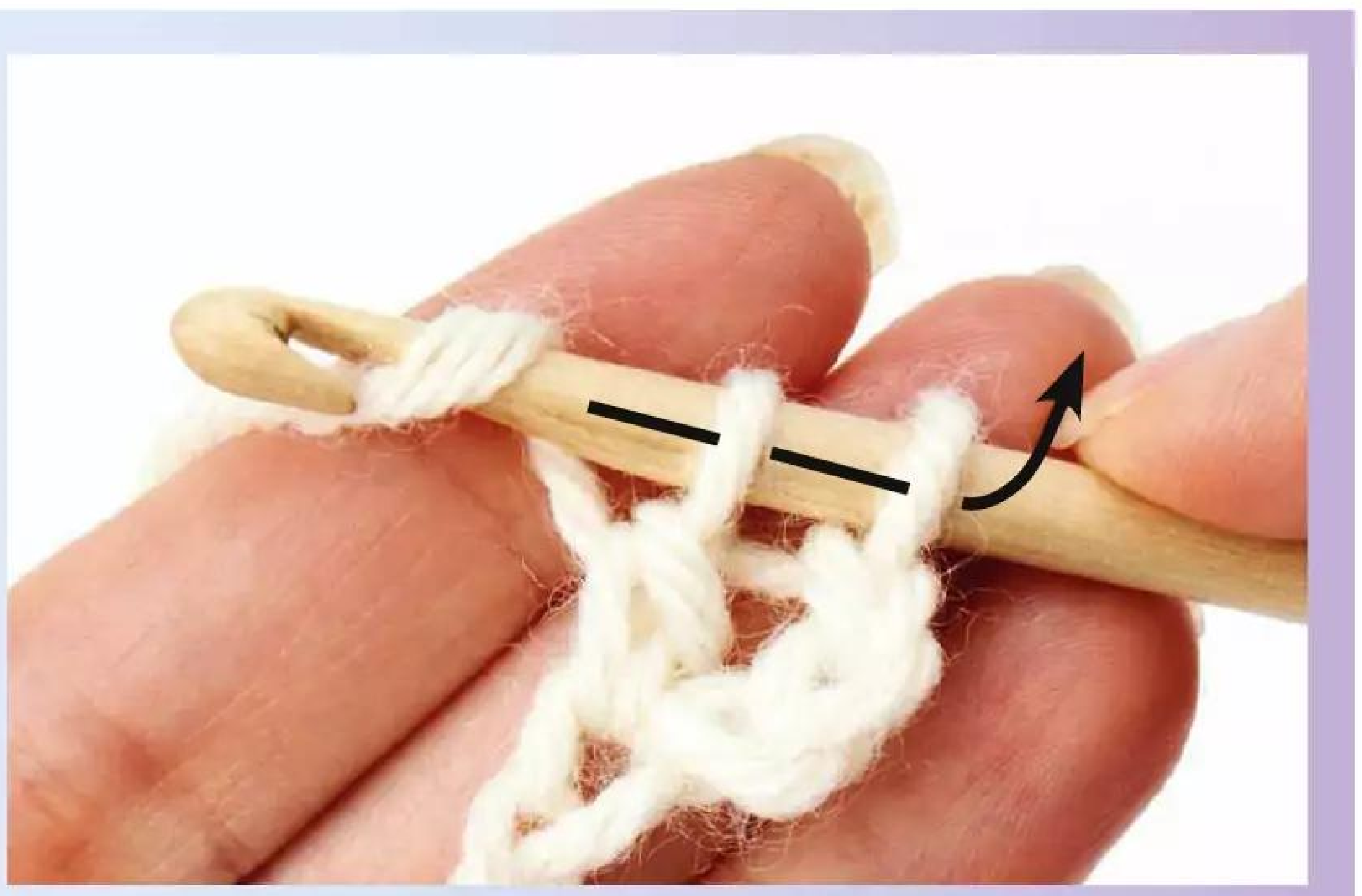
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to master the treble crochet stitch...



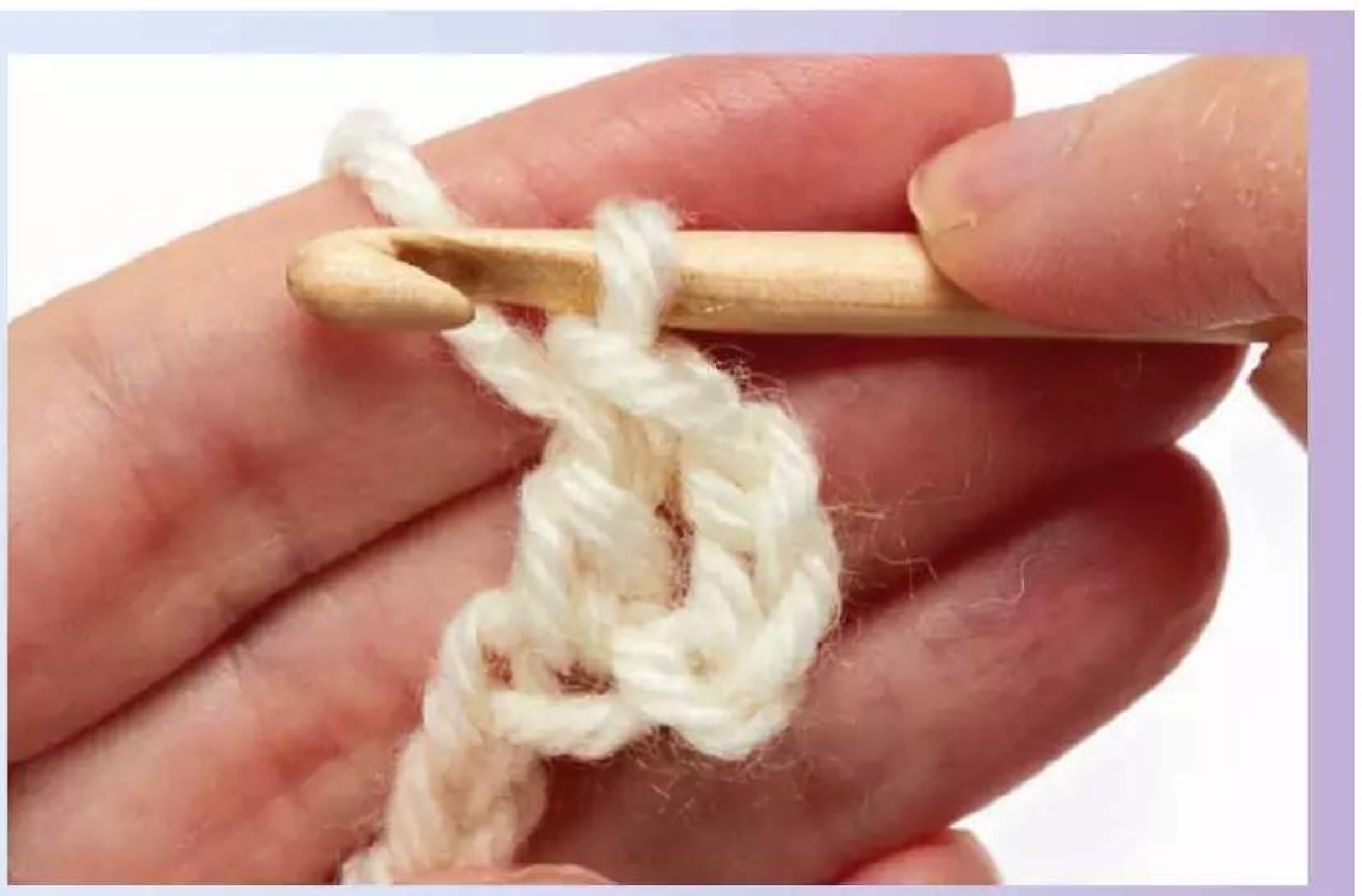
1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook and insert hook into 4th chain from hook. Yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the chain loop, so you have three loops on the hook.



2 Work the yarn round hook movement again and then gently pull the yarn through just the first two loops on the hook. You now have two loops on the hook.



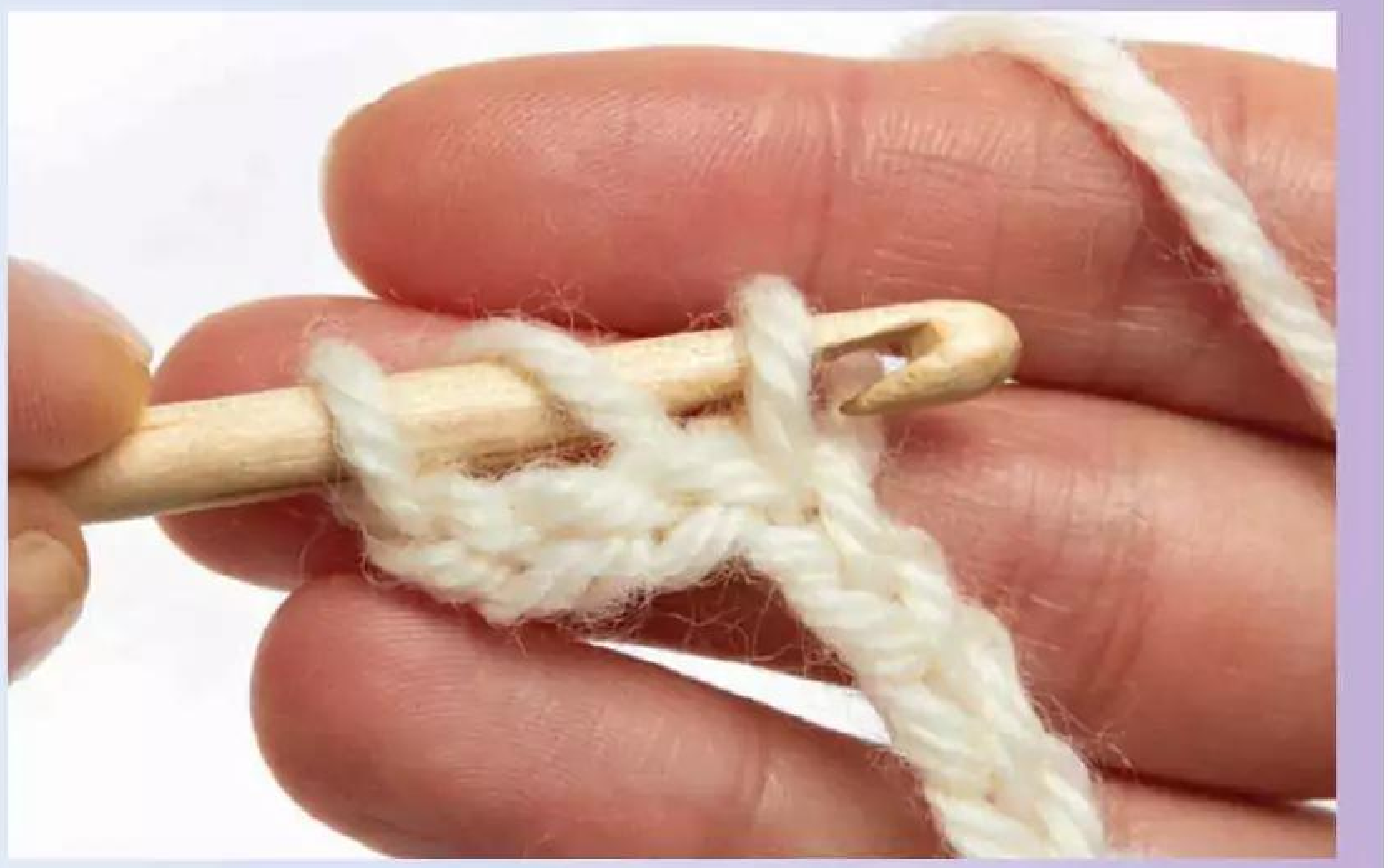
3 Work yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the remaining two loops on the hook to finish the stitch.



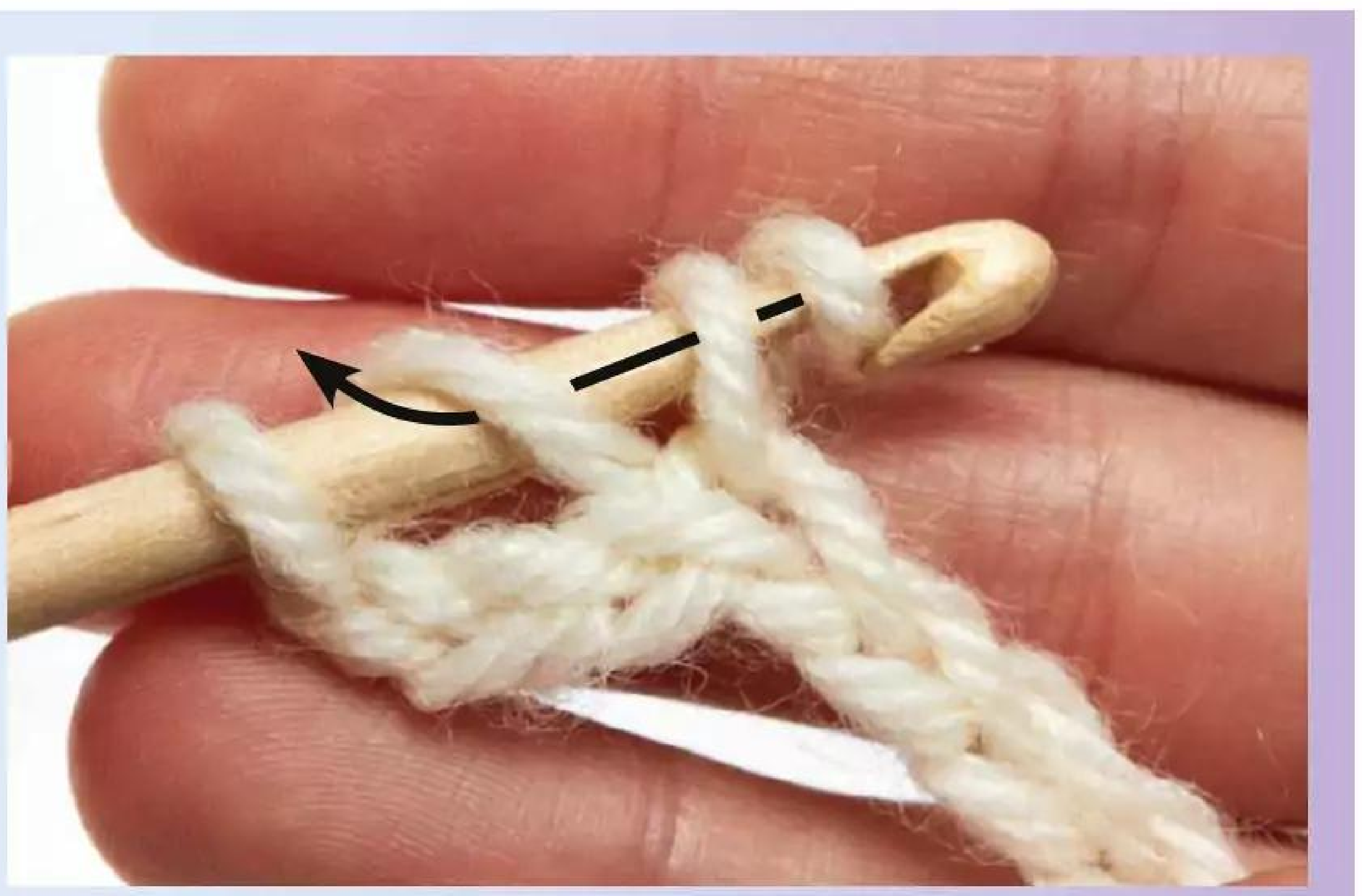
4 Your first treble crochet stitch is finished and you can see how it sits neatly next to the 3-chain turning chain.

LEFT-HAND

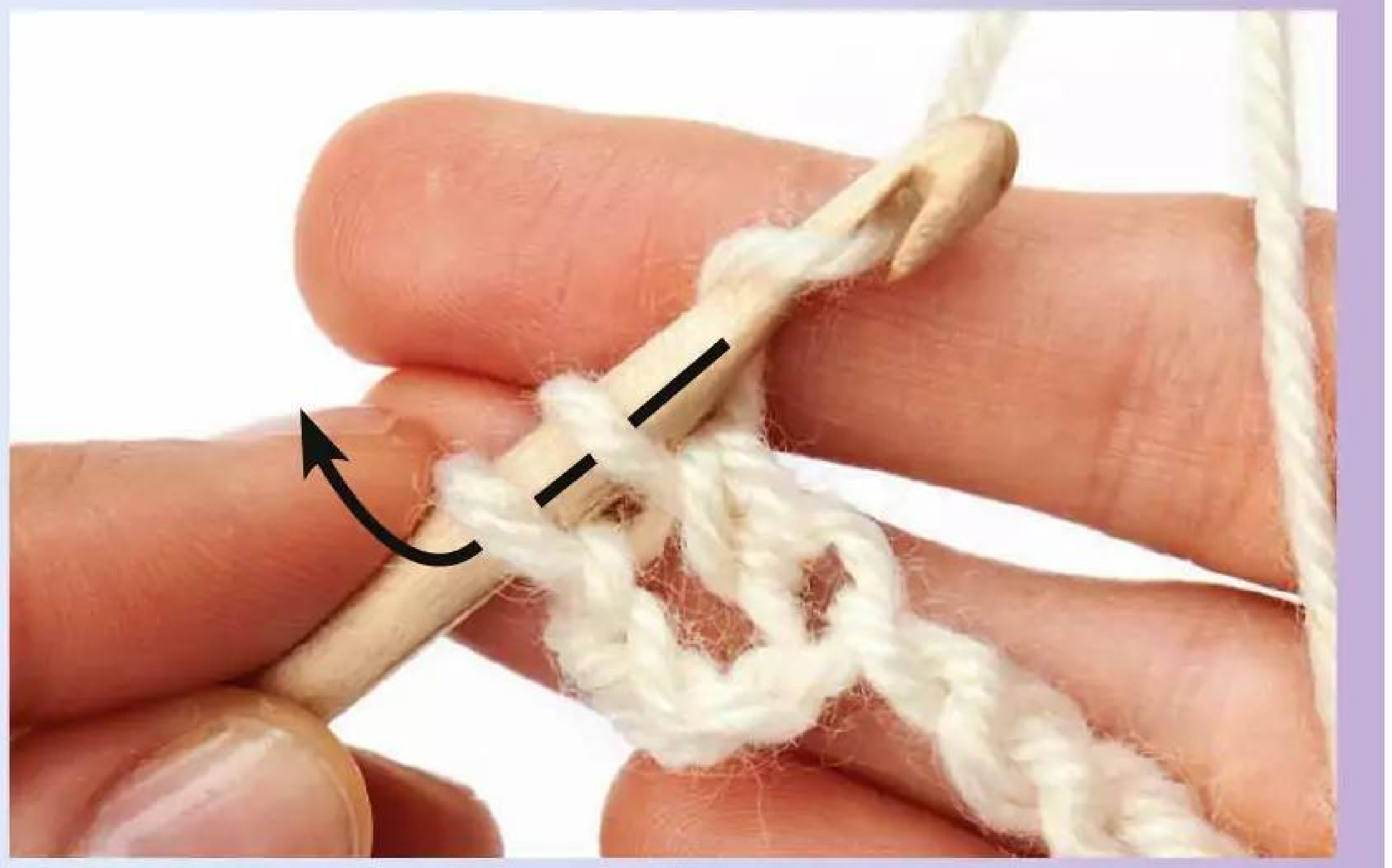
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to master the treble crochet stitch…



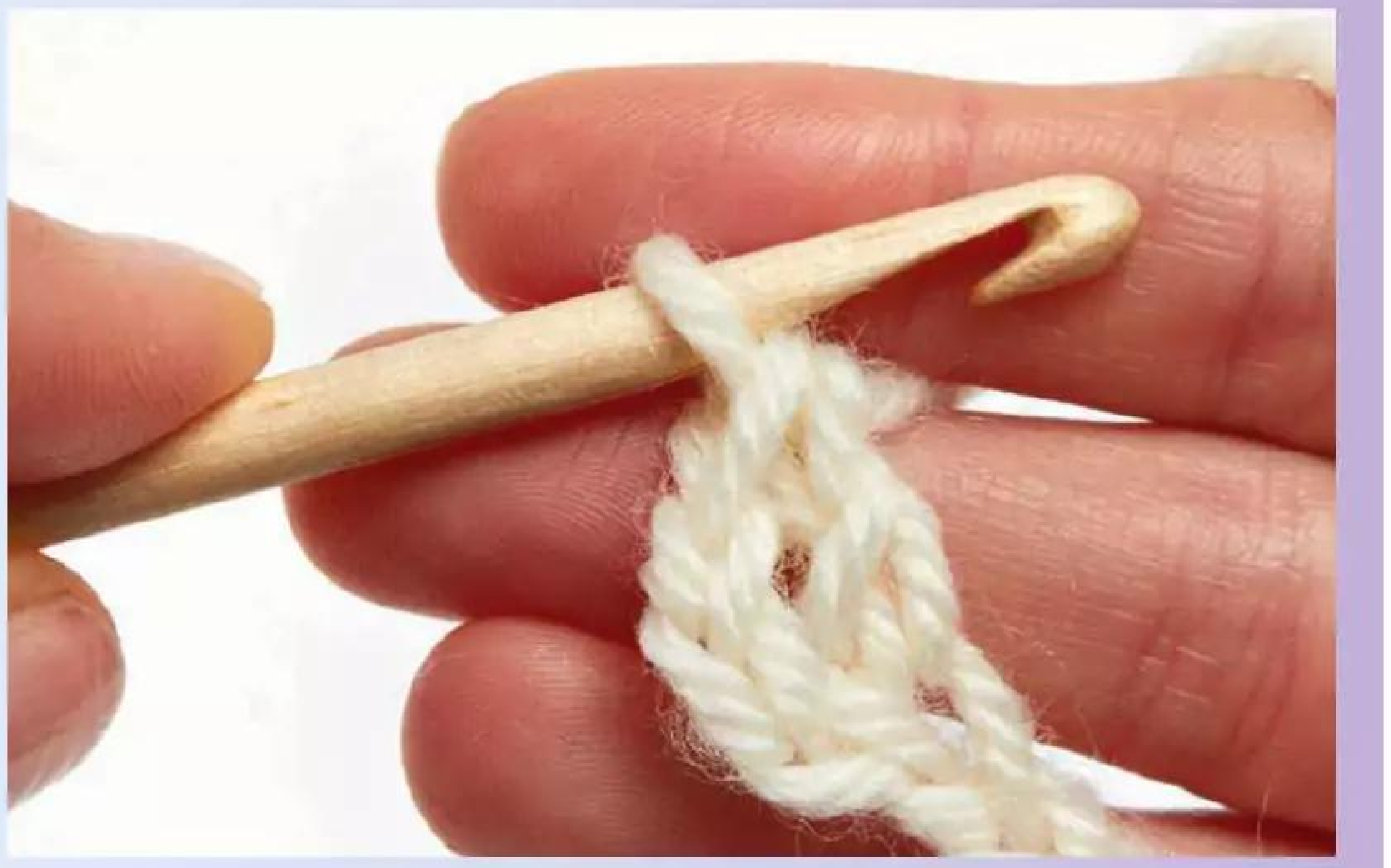
1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook and insert hook into 4th chain from hook. Yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the chain loop, so you have three loops on the hook.



2 Work the yarn round hook movement again and then gently pull the yarn through just the first two loops on the hook. You now have two loops on the hook.



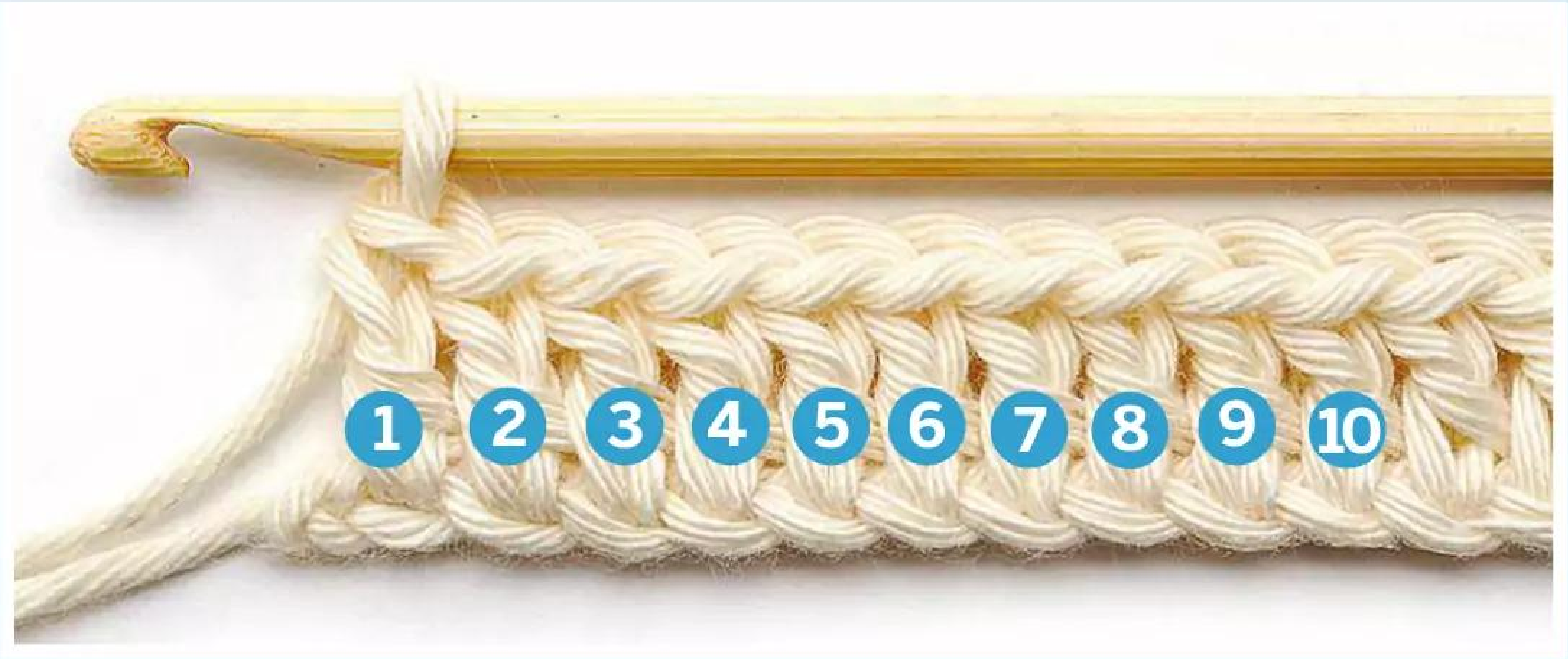
3 Work yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the remaining two loops on the hook to finish the stitch.



4 Your first treble crochet stitch is finished and you can see how it sits neatly next to the 3-chain turning chain.

HOW TO COUNT STITCHES

Check that you have the right number of crochet stitches



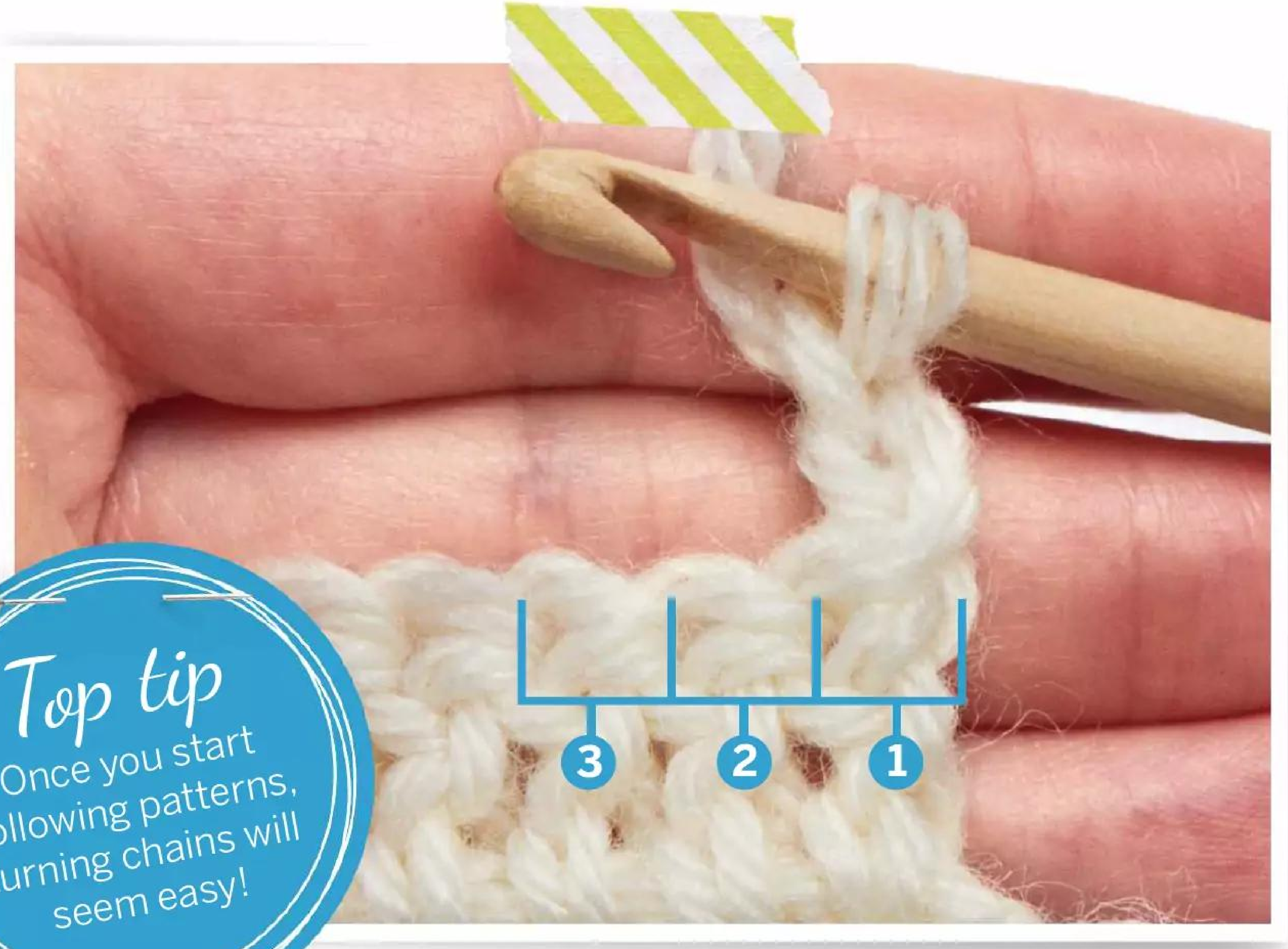
Being able to count your stitches is vital and helps you to make sure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row, especially after the first row of stitches worked into your foundation chain.

To count tall stitches such as treble crochet, it's usually easiest to look at the tall 'stem' of the stitches (see above), rather than the v-shaped top of the stitch. If you made 24 chains (21 chains plus 3 turning chains), you should now have 22 treble stitches.

GET COUNTING
After working the foundation row of stitches into the foundation chain

TURNING CHAINS

This very popular stitch forms a medium density fabric



Top tip

Once you start following patterns, turning chains will seem easy!

When you work crochet stitches, you'll see that each one has a different height: double crochet stitches are very small, while treble stitches are fairly tall. So, when you reach the end of a row of stitches, you need a way to get the hook up to the right height to work the next row of stitches. The answer is turning chains.

By adding a short chain length, known as turning chains (abbreviated as t-ch), you can create a fake first stitch at the beginning of the new row. Then the hook will be in the right place to work the rest of the stitches in the row. You need to work a t-ch at the beginning of every row in crochet (unless a pattern states otherwise).

Since each crochet stitch is a different height, each one has a different length of turning chain. For example, treble crochet has a turning chain that is three chains long, while double crochet has a turning chain that's one chain long. The table below right tells you how many chain stitches form the turning chain for each crochet stitch.

TREBLE CROCHET ROWS

When you're working treble crochet, the turning chain is three chains. So, after working the first row of treble stitches into the foundation chain, you need to turn the fabric so that you're working from right to left again. Then make three chains (the turning chain). The picture (above right) shows how your work should look – the 3-ch turning chain has been worked and you're ready to make the treble stitches of the second row.

Since the turning chain forms the first stitch in treble crochet, you need to work the next treble into the second stitch of the row below. The numbers on the picture (above right) show how to count the stitches of the second row. The number 1 shows the first stitch (the t-ch) and the number 2 shows where you need to work the next treble stitch. You might see a pattern explain this as 'skip the stitch at the base of the t-ch'.

Since the turning chain works as a stitch within your treble fabric, you need to treat it just like a stitch when you come back to it on the next row. So you'll work a stitch into the top of each stitch on the next row, and then work the final treble stitch into the top chain of the 3-ch turning chain. Sometimes patterns will explain this as 'work final tr into 3rd (or 'top') of beginning 3-ch'.

DOUBLE CROCHET DIFFERENCE

When you're working double crochet fabric, the turning chain rules work differently! Double crochet fabric requires a 1-chain t-ch, but because one chain is much smaller than one double crochet stitch, the 1-chain t-ch can't work as a fake stitch. So you still need to work the 1-chain t-ch, to take the hook up to the right height, but then you can just ignore the extra chain. Don't include it in your stitch count and proceed to work the first double crochet stitch of the row into the stitch at the base of the t-ch, rather than skipping that stitch. At the end of the row, work the final double crochet stitch into the top of the first double crochet of the row below, not into the 1-chain t-ch.

You might come across a pattern that instructs you to count the 1-chain t-ch in dc as a stitch, but it's quite unusual.

STITCH	Add to foundation chain before starting row	Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st)	For turning chain (counts as first st)
Double crochet	1 ch	1 ch	1 ch
Half treble	1 ch	2 ch	2 ch
Treble	2 ch	3 ch	3 ch
Double treble	3 ch	4 ch	4 ch
Triple treble	4 ch	5 ch	5 ch

TENSION SQUARES

For the best crochet results, it's important you check your tension

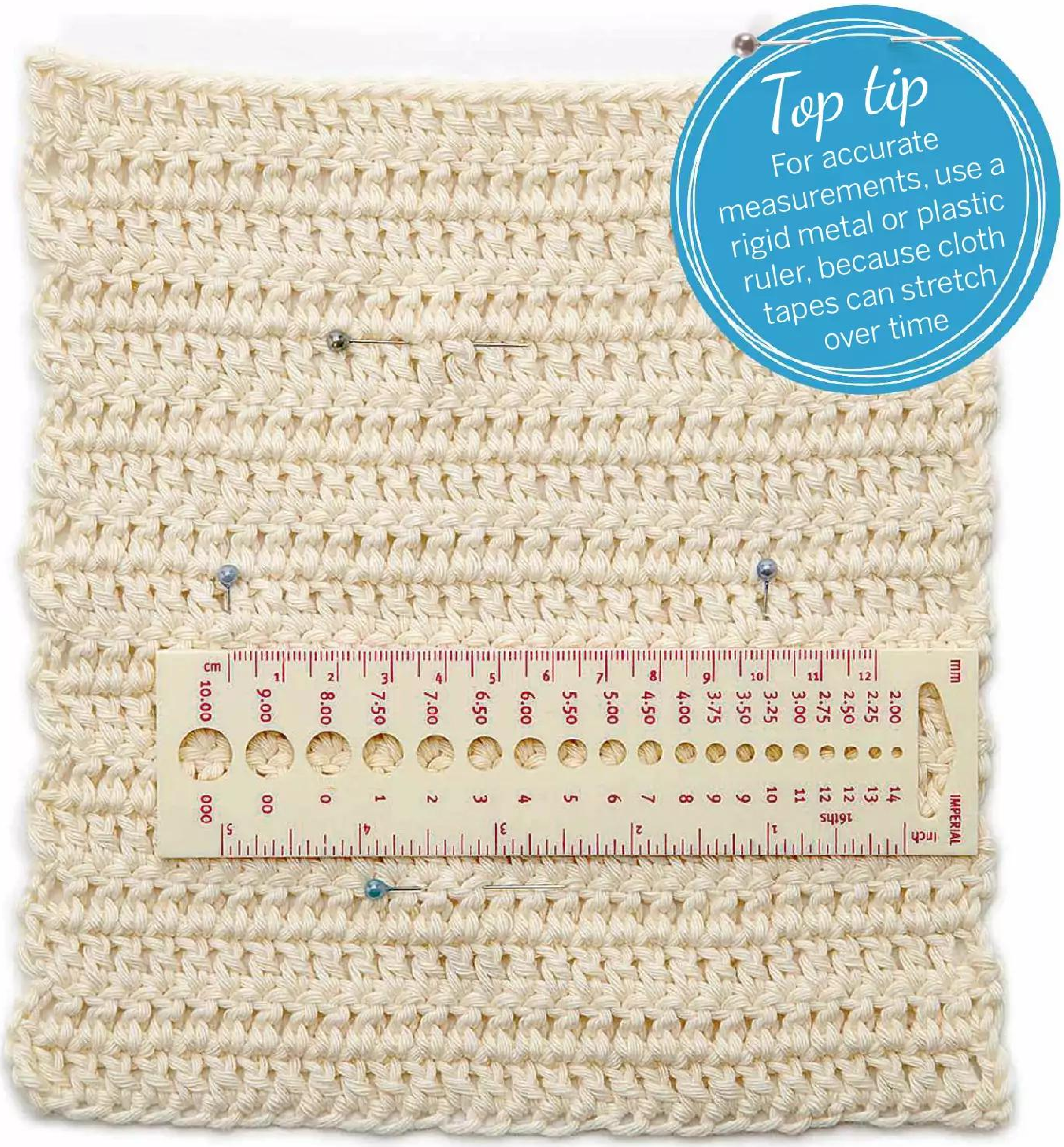
For great results from your crocheting, it's important to make sure that you are working to the correct tension. The tension you need to work to is usually stated in a crochet pattern, and a yarn's typical tension is usually on its ball band.

Before starting any project, it's a good idea to make a small square with the yarn, often called a tension square or swatch. Some crocheters see this as a chore, but it's vital if you want a garment that fits well and looks fantastic. If your tension is too tight, your item will be smaller than the designer intended; if your tension is too loose, you'll find that the item is too big.

HOW TO MAKE A SQUARE

To make a sample square to check your tension or gauge (as it's called in the US), use the yarn and size of hook that the pattern states. Most often, you'll find that the instructions given are for a 10x10cm (4x4in) square, but to correctly measure your tension, we recommend that you make a square that's at least 15x15cm (6x6in) in size. Check the yarn's ball band to see how many stitches you'll need to make a square that's 15x15cm in size.

When you've completed the square, lay it on a flat surface, as pictured right, and gently smooth it out, being careful that you don't distort the stitches.



Top tip

For accurate measurements, use a rigid metal or plastic ruler, because cloth tapes can stretch over time

STITCH TENSION

First, work out the stitch tension. Use a pin as a marker and insert it vertically between two stitches. Then, using a rigid ruler, horizontally measure 10cm (4in) and place another pin in the fabric. Count the number of stitches between the two pins and if your tension corresponds with that given in the pattern, then you can start crocheting.

However, if you have more stitches than is stated in the pattern's tension guide, it means that your crocheting is too tight, so try making another square using a hook that is one size bigger. If you have fewer stitches than is stated in the pattern's tension guide, then your tension is too loose, so crochet another square using a smaller hook.

ROW TENSION

To check your row tension, insert a pin horizontally and measure 10cm (4in) vertically, then insert another pin. Count the rows between the pins and if they correspond with the pattern, your row tension is fine. If they don't, but your stitch tension is correct, the easiest way of getting your row tension right is to alter your 'Golden Loop'. This is the first loop pulled up after inserting the hook in the stitch – making it shorter or taller will help you get the right row tension. If your row tension is only slightly out (e.g. half a row in treble crochet or one row in double crochet), it shouldn't make too much difference to the final item, especially as most patterns instruct you to crochet as many rows as you need to achieve a specific length. However, if your tension is a bit out, you may end up needing more yarn than stated in the pattern.

FOR A DIFFERENT YARN

Another time when a tension square is necessary is if you have an old pattern that was intended for a now-discontinued yarn and you want to make the item in a yarn of the same weight. For example, if you want to make a jumper that was made in DK, buy a yarn that's the same weight (the information on the ball band should help you) and work a tension square until you get the tension stated in the pattern.

TREBLE CROCHET ROWS

Work more rows of treble stitches to form fabric

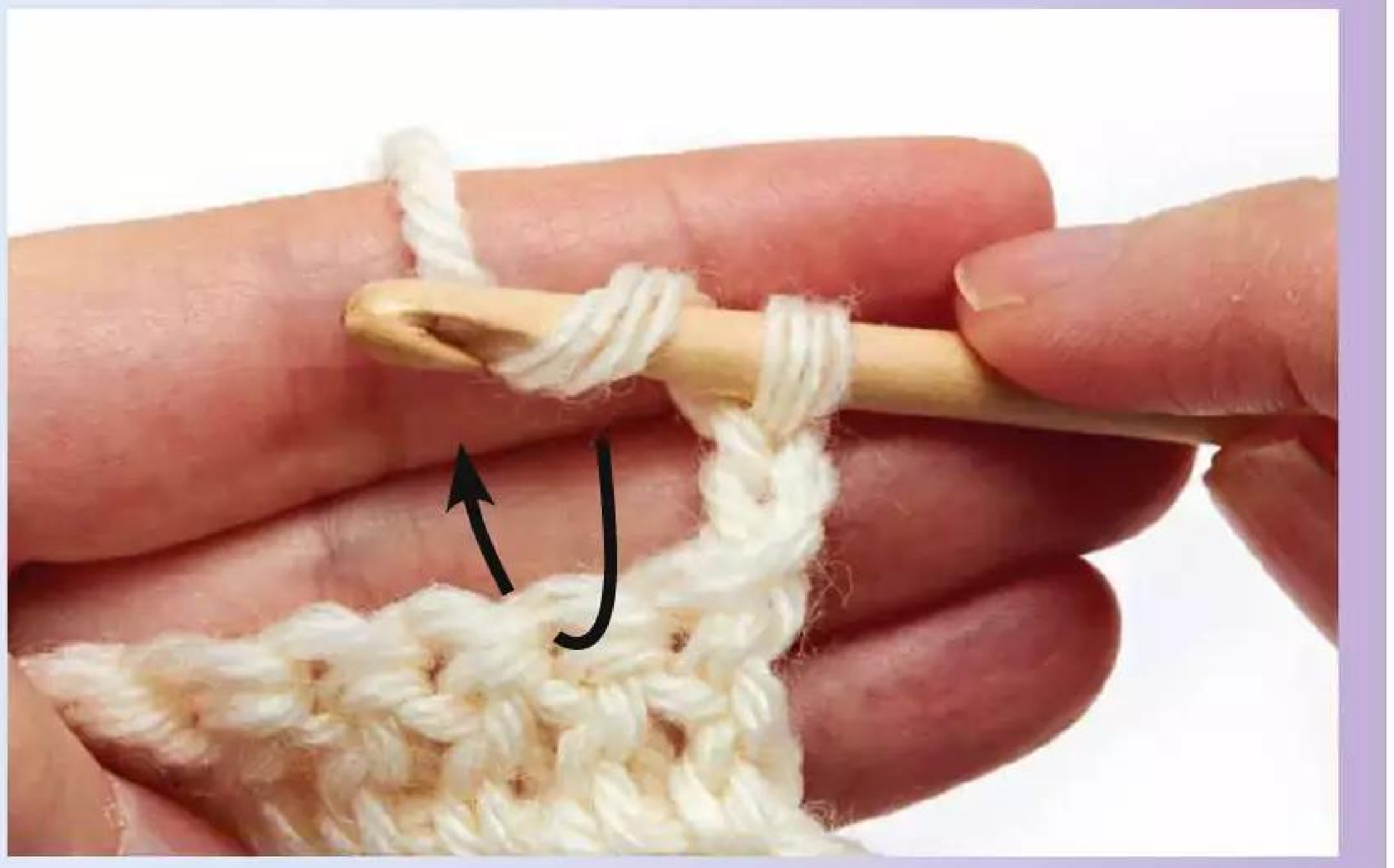
After the first row of treble crochet stitches, the following rows are just as easy. All you need to do is turn your fabric, work the turning chain (see below right for more) and then work a stitch into the top of each stitch on the row below.

This is just as easy as working stitches into chains. The only extra technique you'll need to know is turning chains (see below right for more). In treble crochet rows, you need to count the turning chain (t-ch) as a stitch and at the end of the row, work a treble crochet stitch into the top of the turning chain of the row below. Have a practice and you'll soon get the hang of how it works.

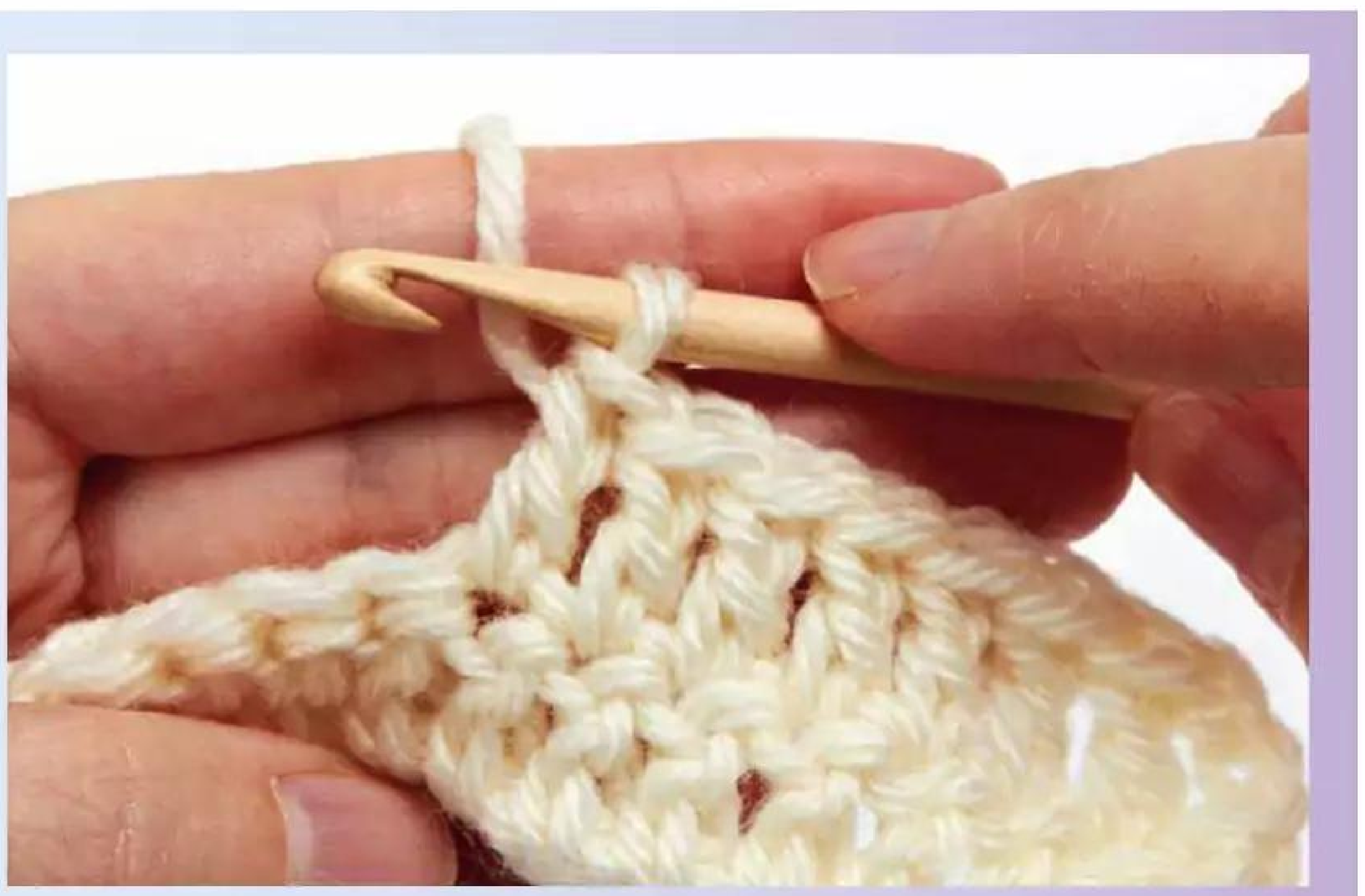
The more rows you make, the larger your piece of treble crochet fabric. At the end of each row, count your stitches (this is the 'stitch count') to check that you haven't made too many or missed any stitches.

RIGHT-HAND

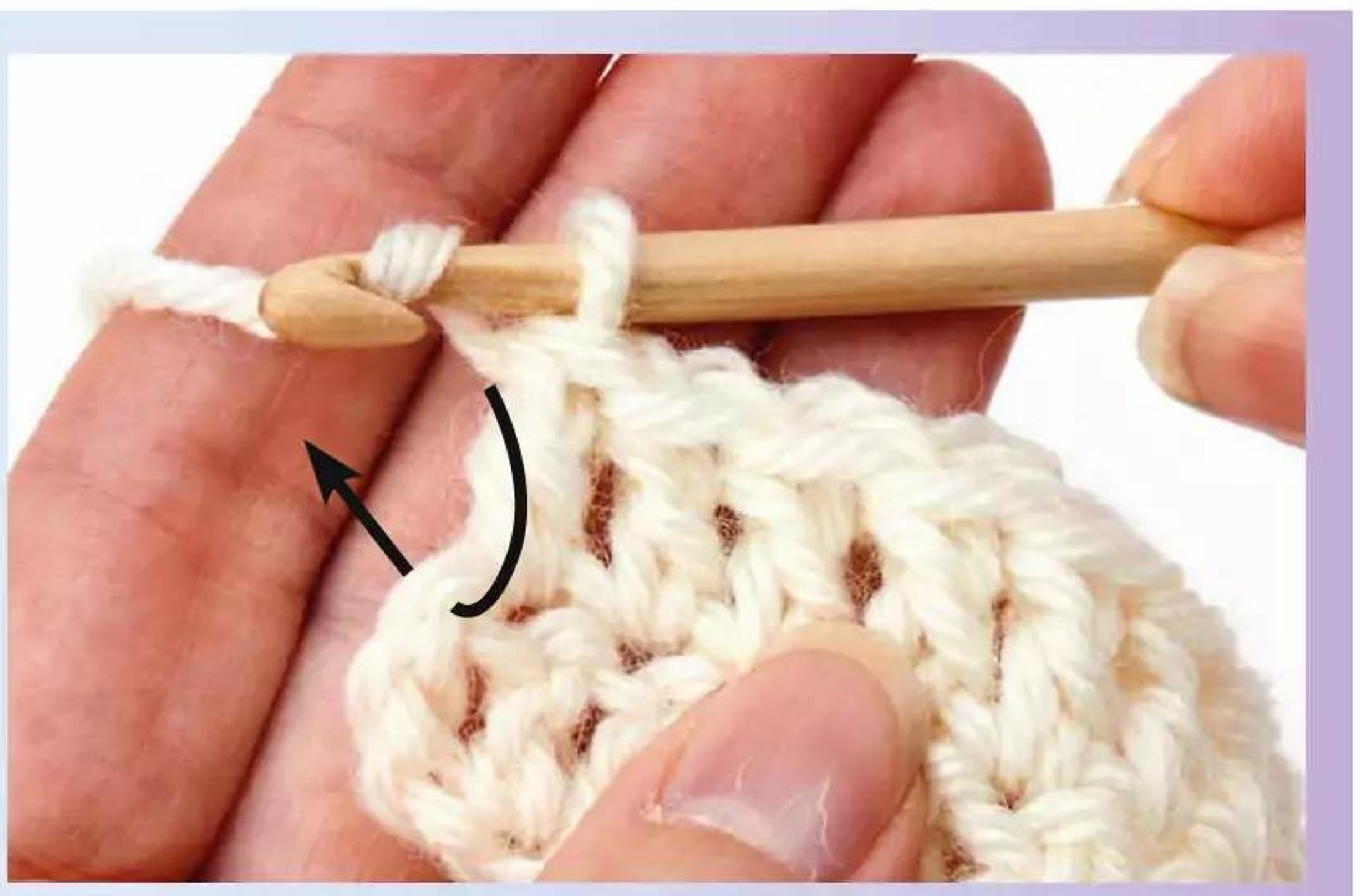
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of treble crochet...



1 Work three chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Work a treble stitch as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through first two loops, yrh, pull through two loops). Work a treble in each stitch across the row.

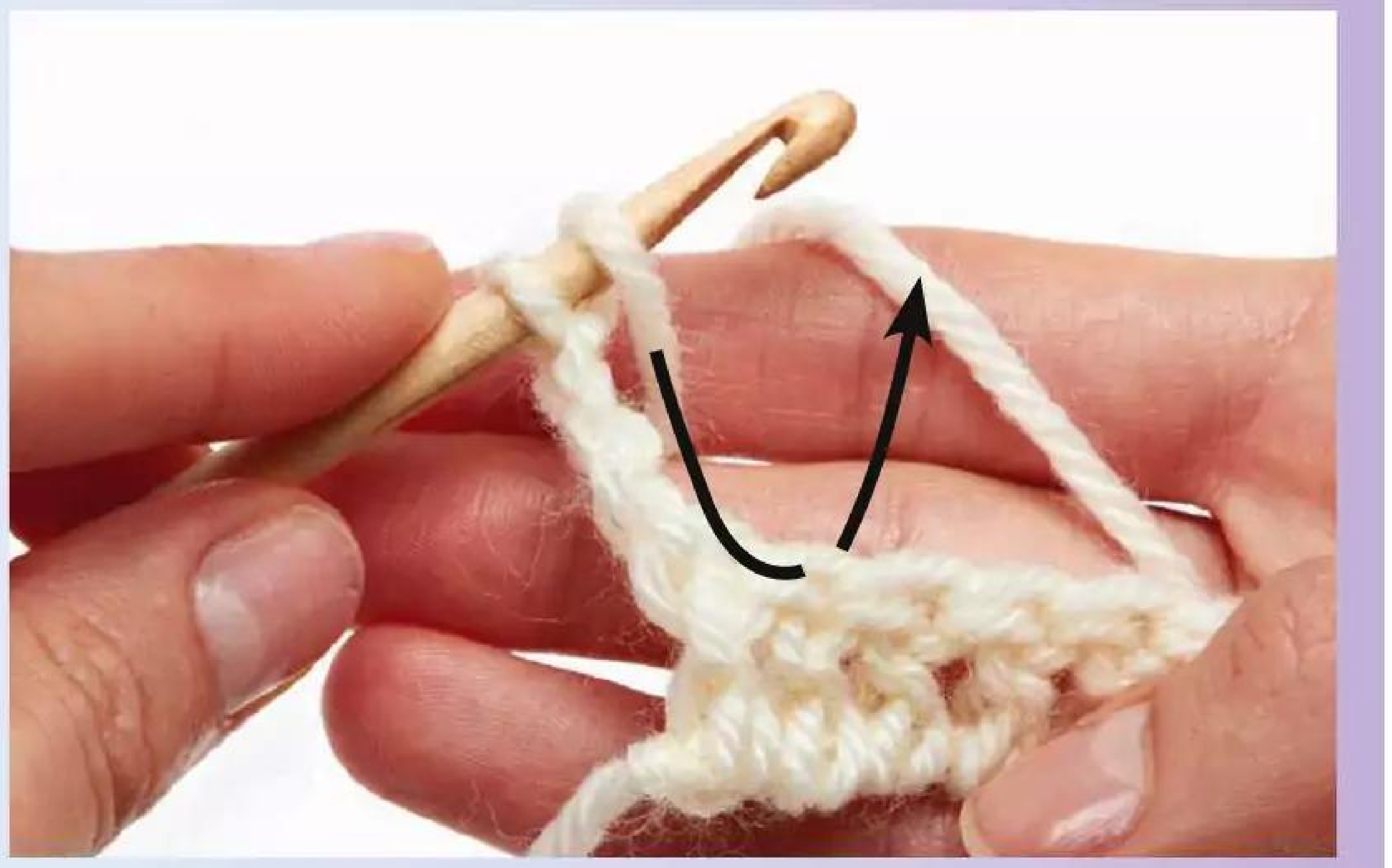


3 To finish the row of treble crochet stitches, work the final treble stitch into the top chain of the t-ch on the row below.

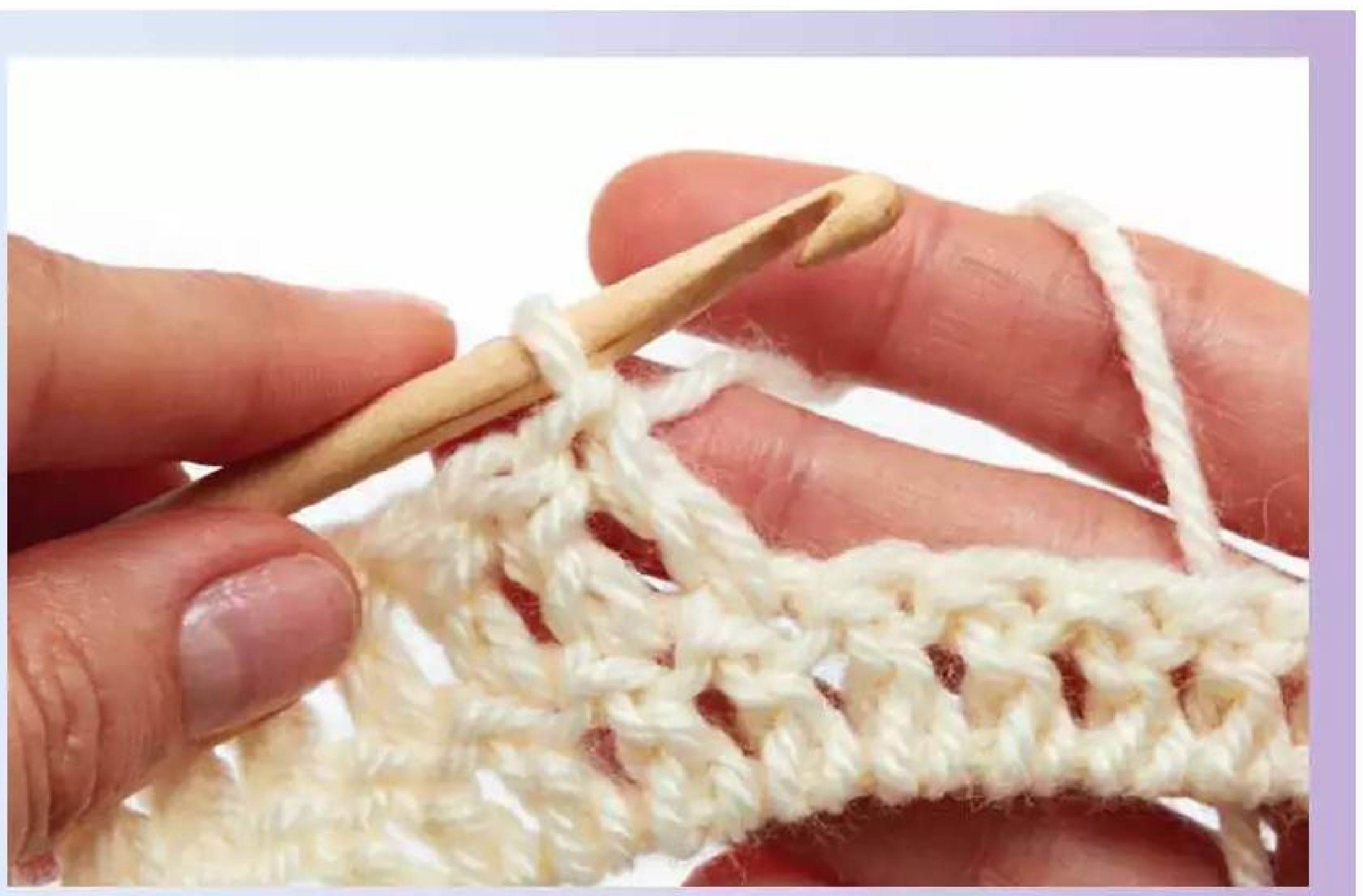
4 Your second row of treble crochet will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

LEFT-HAND

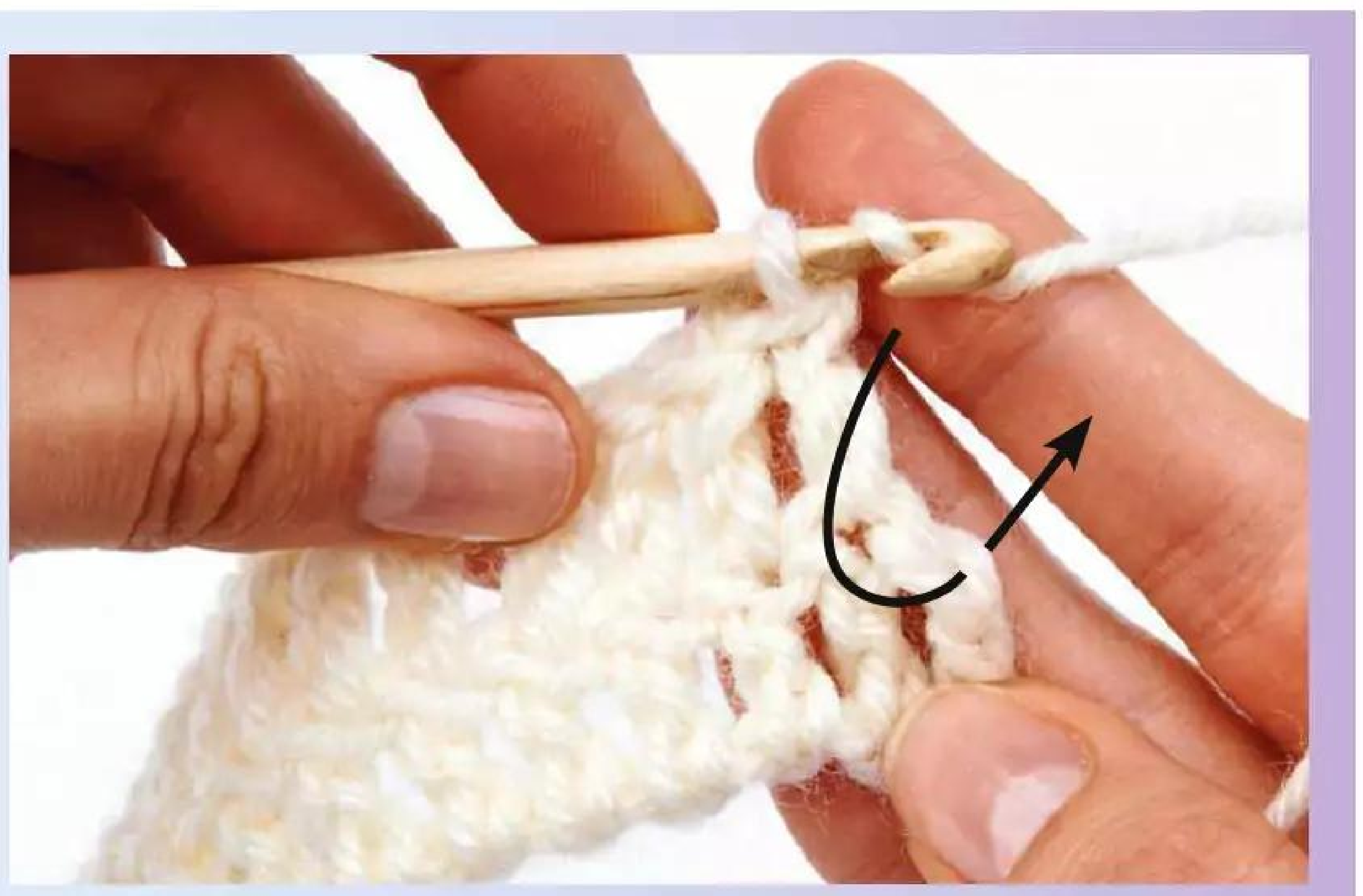
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double crochet stitch...



1 Work three chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Work a treble stitch as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through first two loops, yrh, pull through two loops). Work a treble in each stitch across the row.



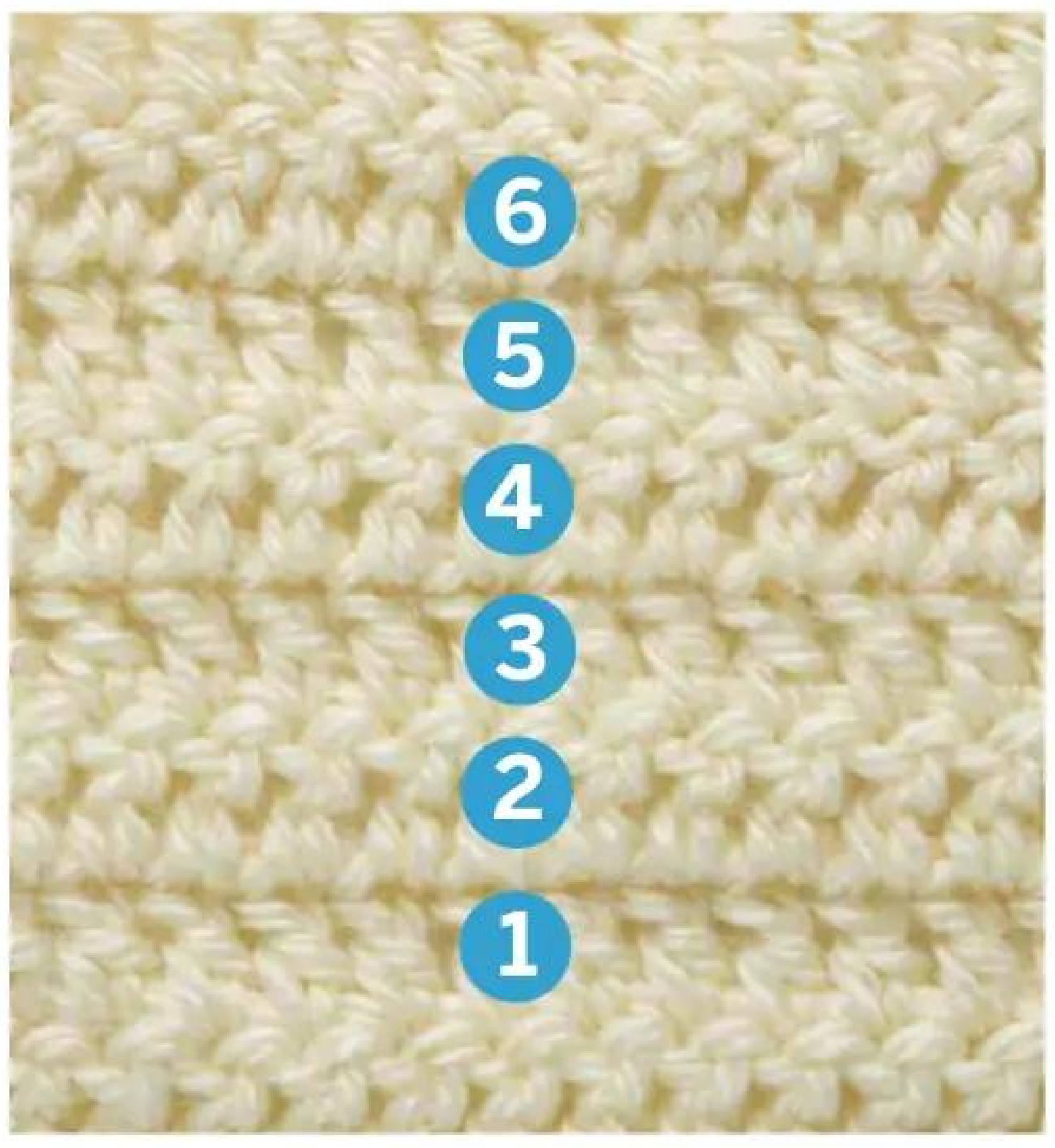
3 To finish the row of treble crochet stitches, work the final treble stitch into the top chain of the t-ch on the row below.

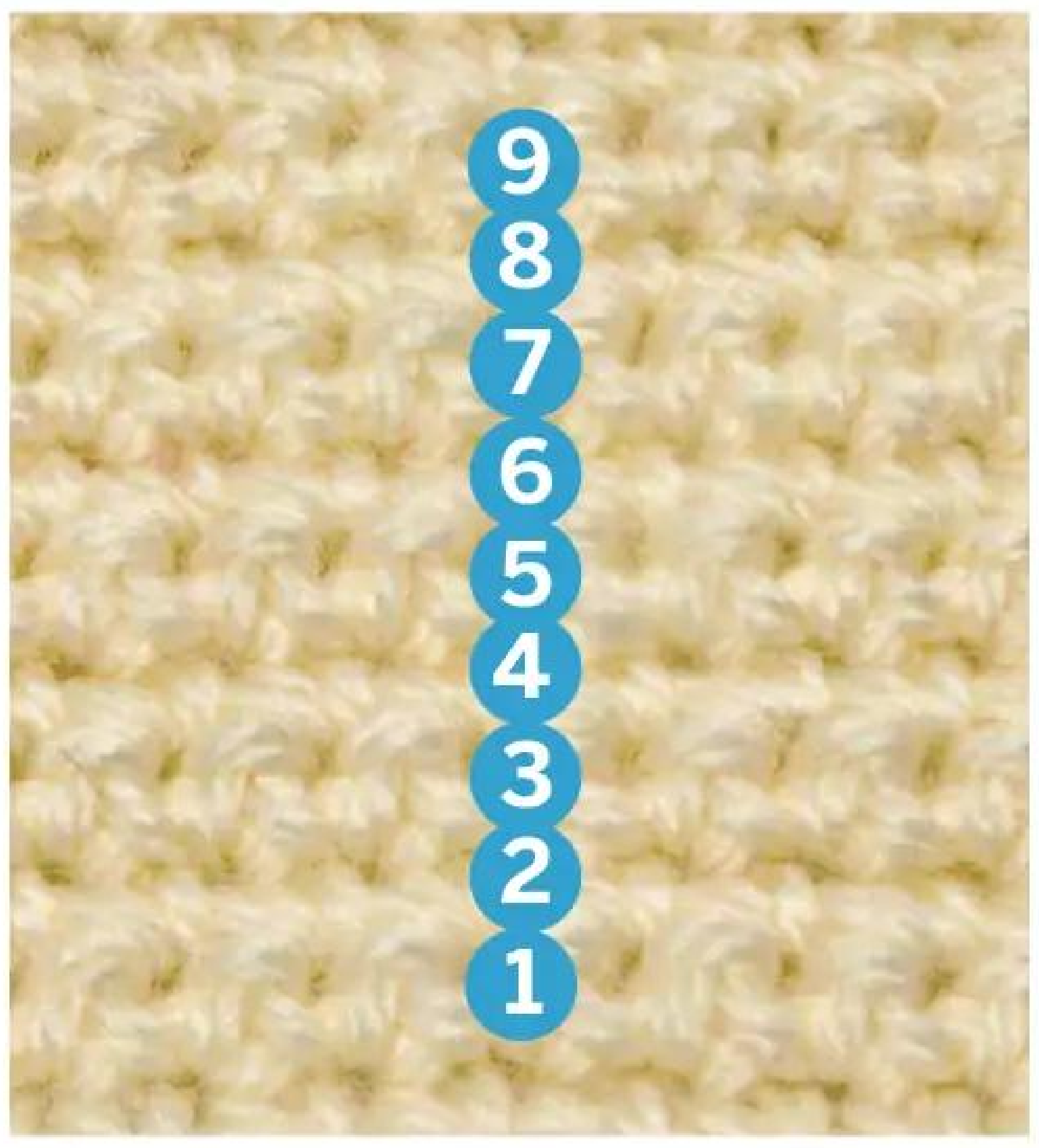
4 Your second row of treble crochet will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

HOW TO COUNT ROWS

How to make sure you have the right number of rows

Using a row counter will help you to keep track of where you are in a pattern, but you can also count rows at key points in your pattern. To count rows of tall treble stitches, it's easy to see the stitch 'stems' (see right). For the small stitches of double crochet (see far right), it's easy to see the rows of inverted v-shaped stitches (odd-numbered in photo), but remember that there will be another row in between (even-numbered in photo).





TREBLE STITCH SCARF

Embellish a simple outfit with a versatile lacy tie scarf. By **Anne Egan**

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), 1 ball of Dark Teal (40)

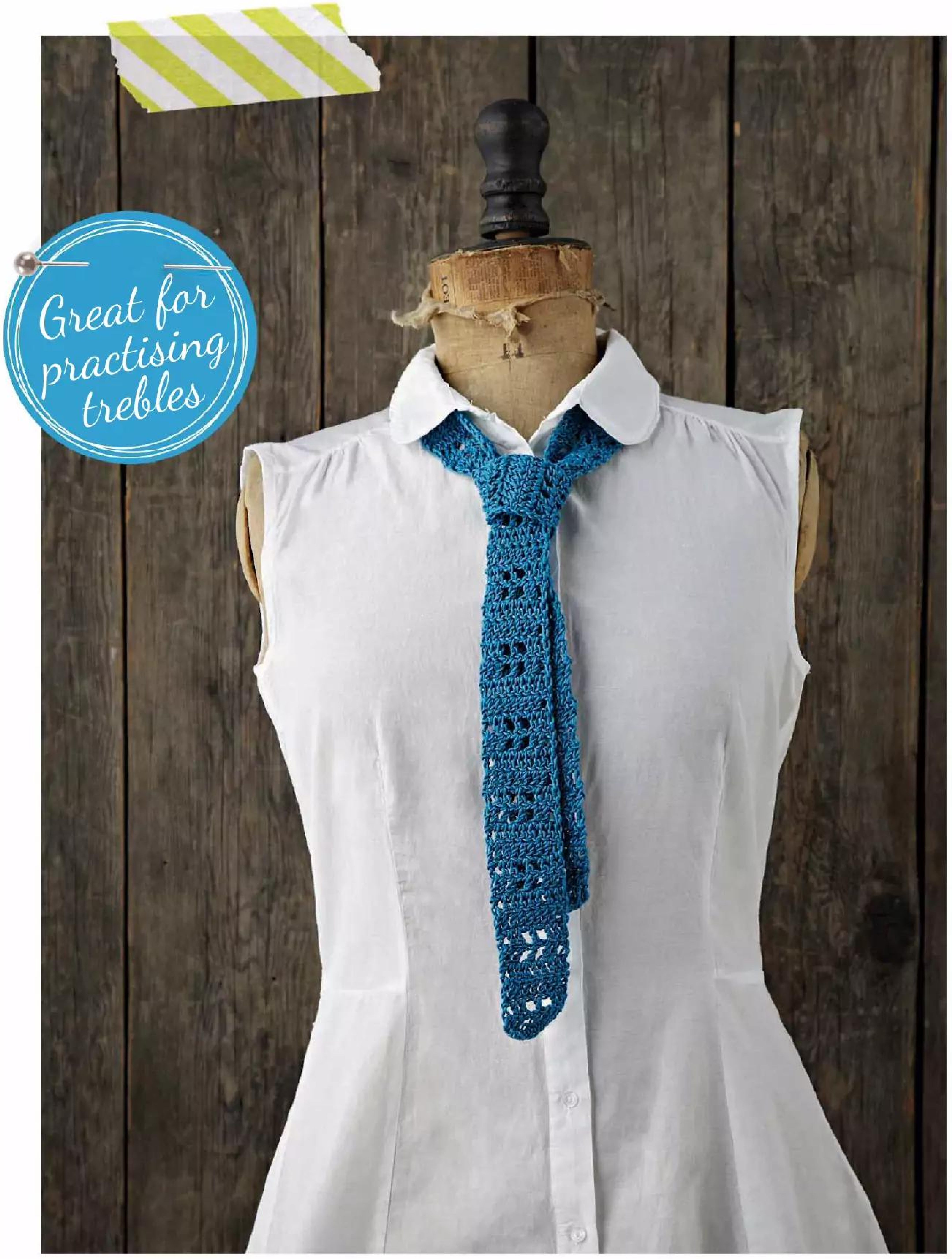
HOOK

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

TENSION AND SIZE

Tension is not critical for this project. Finished size approx 4.5x124cm (or make it to the length you wish)

Practise treble stitches and counting chains to make this pretty scarf, or use it as a belt or in a bow!



Great for practising trebles

SKINNY SCARF

Chain 10.

Row 1 Double crochet into the second chain from the hook, double crochet across, turn. [9 double crochets]

Row 2 Chain 3 (counts as treble throughout), 2 treble, chain 1, skip 1 stitch, treble into the next stitch, chain 1, skip 1 stitch, 3 treble, turn. [7 trebles, 2 chain-1 spaces]

Row 3 As row 2.

Row 4 Chain 3, treble into each stitch across, turn. [9 trebles]

Row 5 As row 4.

Repeat Rows 2-5 until the tie scarf measures approximately 124cm, ending with a Row 3.

Final row As row 1.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Block the scarf gently according to the instructions given on page 127.

CROCHET IN THE ROUND

Let us show you how easy it is to crochet tubular fabrics in the round – ideal for making hats, toys, pincushions, and other seam-free accessories

ALL ABOUT... ROUNDS

Working crochet stitches in the round is easier than you think, and will enable you to make seamless garments, flat shapes like flowers and 3D items like toys. By **Becky Skuse**

Once you can crochet in rows, it's easy to crochet in the round. There's no special equipment needed and only a few simple rules to remember – we'll explain all of these in this chapter. Being able to crochet in the round means you can create seamless circular fabrics and tackle a world of possible projects, including granny squares, hats and amigurumi toys.

The biggest difference between rounds of crochet and rows of crochet is how you get started. When you crochet in rows, you start with a foundation chain, but for rounds, you start with a foundation ring.

There are various ways to make a foundation ring to crochet in the round – we'll show you how to do the three most popular methods (summarised below). You can find other methods online.

These three methods are great when you want to start off with a small number of stitches, such as for toys or flat motifs like flowers or granny squares. When you want to work a large number of stitches in the round, such as for a cowl or sleeve, you'll need to use the basic ring method.

Once you've made your foundation ring and worked the first round (we'll explain how), crocheting in the round is much like crocheting in rows – make a turning chain and then work your stitches into the tops of the stitches on the previous round. To help you keep track of where you are in the round and when you've reached the end, you can use a locking stitch marker. Place the marker in the first stitch of the round and move it up after finishing each round to keep track of where you are.

Once you start following patterns that are worked in the round, you'll see that many use increasing and decreasing stitches, which we'll cover next. These techniques are vital for making interesting shapes and for items such as garments .

THE RUNDOWN

NO TWISTING

When you work the basic ring method, be careful not to twist the chain when you join it into a ring. This is especially important if you have a long foundation ring for a large number of stitches. Any twists could distort your fabric, or affect the finished edge of your item, and you may have to start again.

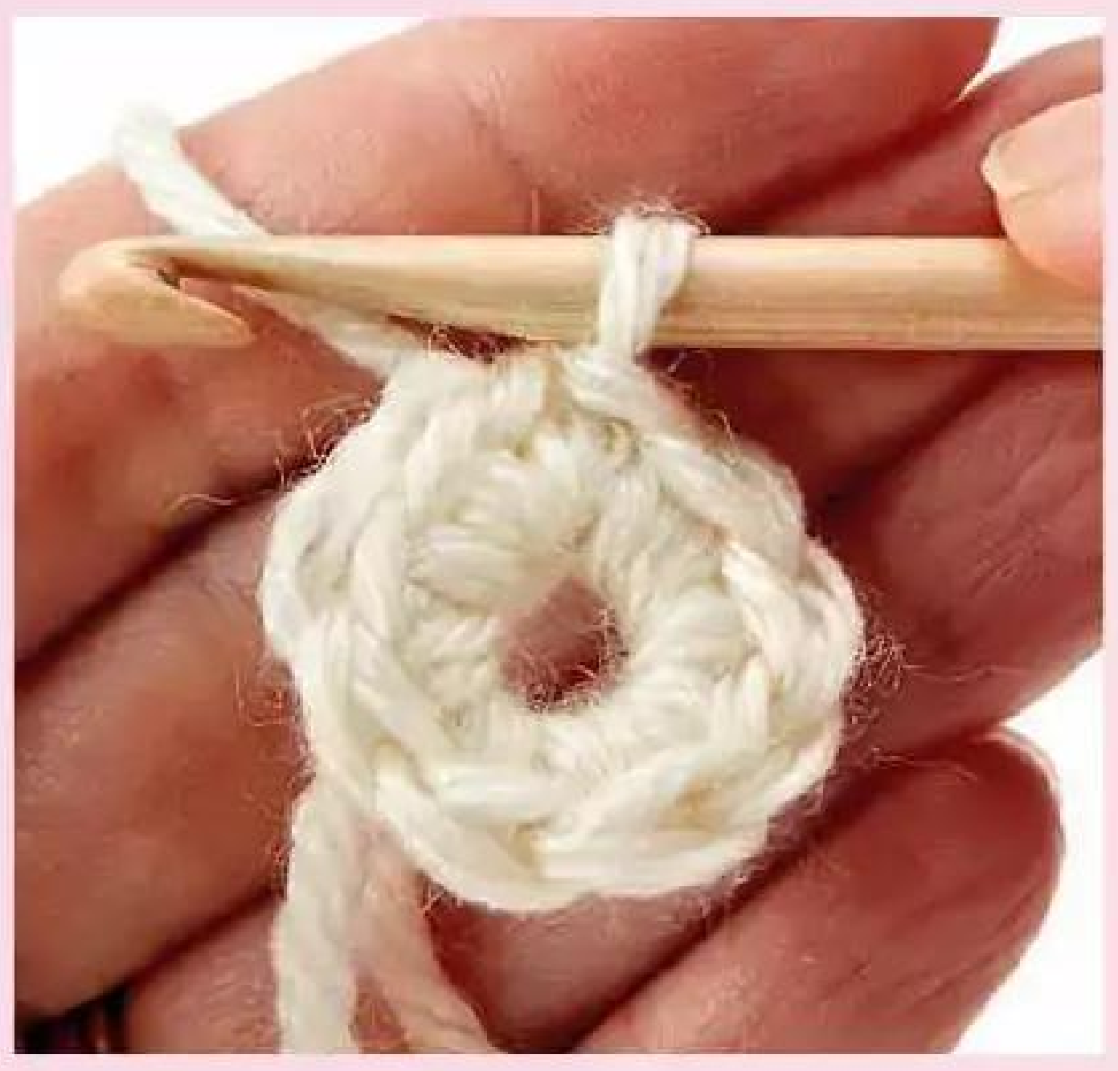
FIRST ROUND

The method for working your first round of stitches will depend on the size and type of foundation ring you've made. For a really long foundation ring, you can just work each stitch of the first round into each individual chain of the foundation ring, just like you'd work in rows. For a very short foundation ring, like the three below, you'll need to work the stitches into the space at the centre of the ring, so insert the hook there instead.

FOUNDATION RINGS

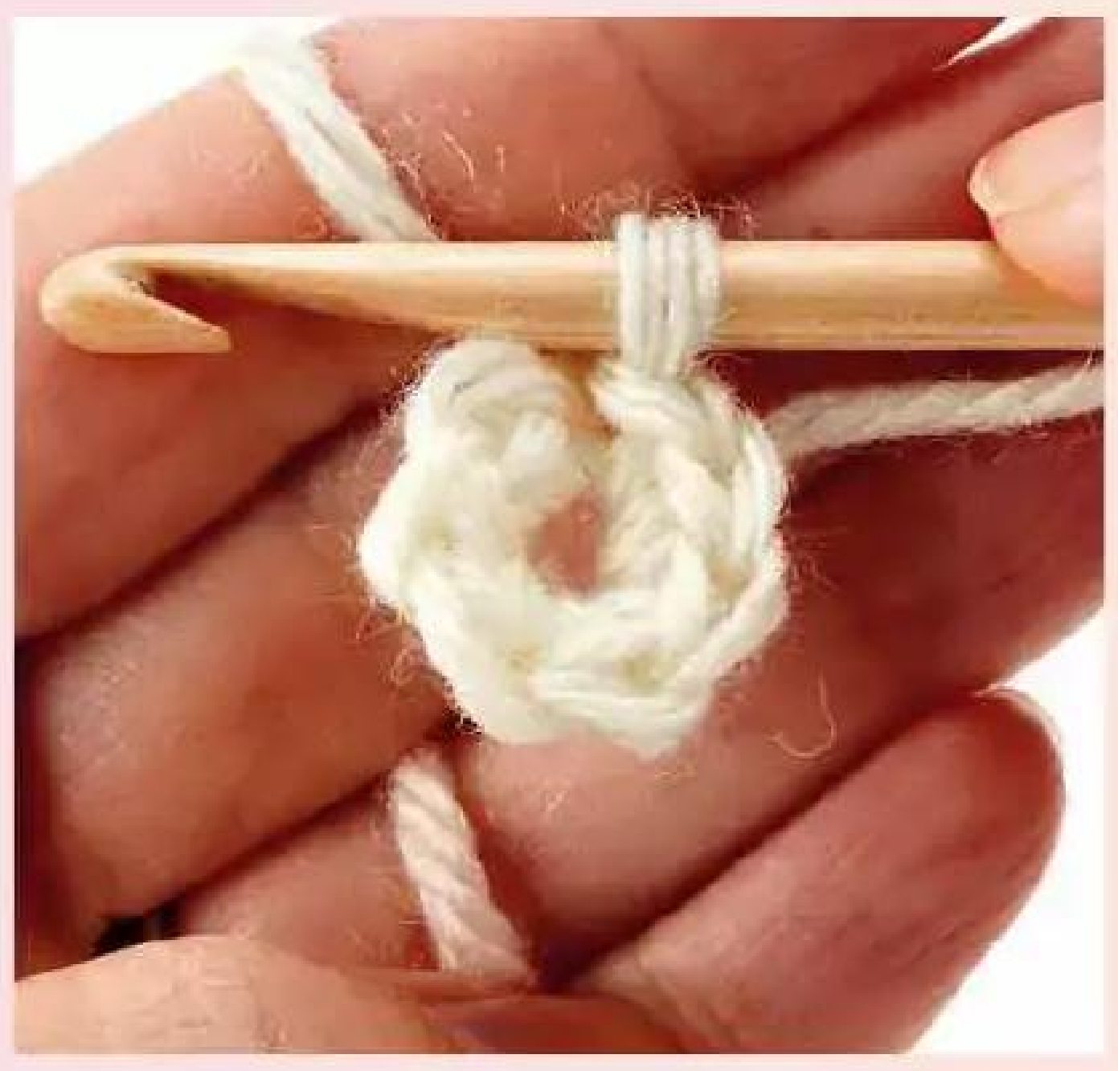
We'll show you how to work these three popular methods

These are the three most-used foundation rings (right). If you're working from a pattern, it should tell you which type of ring to make. The result you get might differ if you use a different ring, so it's often best to make the ring stated in the pattern. Once you gain more experience with foundation rings, you'll have the confidence to use the method you like best and the one you know will suit the item you're making.



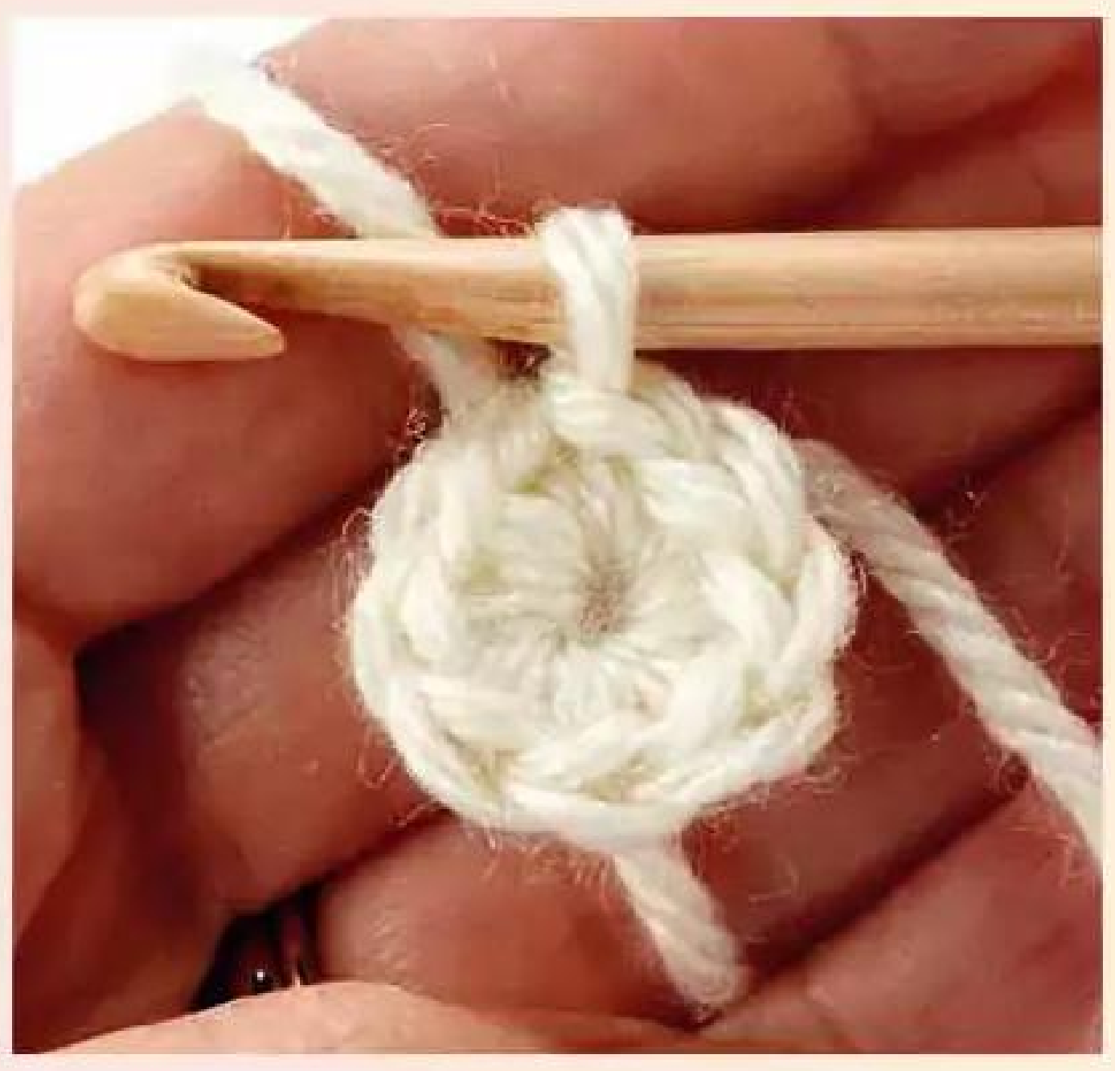
BASIC RING

The easiest foundation ring to crochet involves joining 4-6 chains using a slip stitch. This method creates a small hole at the centre of the first round. See page 54.



CHAIN LOOP

An alternative foundation ring method, which creates a small hole at the centre. Best used when you have a small number of stitches on the first round. See page 60.



MAGIC LOOP

Advance to this clever technique, often used when you're making amigurumi toys. This method leaves no hole in the centre after the first round. See page 62.

DON'T TURN

When you crochet in the round, you usually work with the right side facing you on every round, so there's no need to turn your fabric (unless your pattern states otherwise). You still need to make a turning chain at the start of each round though, to bring the hook up to the right height.

JOINING TOGETHER

Slip stitch is a vital technique when you're crocheting in rounds, so turn to page 31 for a reminder. After you finish the last stitch of a round, you need to use a slip stitch to join it to the first stitch to complete the round.

MARK THE FIRST STITCH

To keep track of which round you're working on, place a stitch marker in the first stitch of the round so you can easily see when you reach the end of the round. Then move the marker up to the new round. You will need a stitch marker that opens (as shown opposite) so you can move it without it getting caught in the fabric. They're usually sold in sets. Look for 'locking' or 'padlock' stitch markers or ones that say they are suitable for crochet.

CROCHET ROUNDS

It's easy when you know how

DIFFERENT FABRIC

When you work in the round, you usually need to work with the right side of the fabric facing you all the time, so your stitches will always be created on the same, right side. This means the fabric you create with your stitches in the round will look different to the fabric worked with the same stitches in rows. The fronts of the stitches will be facing you on every row of the right side of the fabric, while the wrong side of the fabric will show all the backs of the stitches.

STARTING OFF

To begin working in the round, make a foundation ring – these can be long or short. With a short ring, you need to work the first round of stitches into the hole in the centre.

KEEP GOING

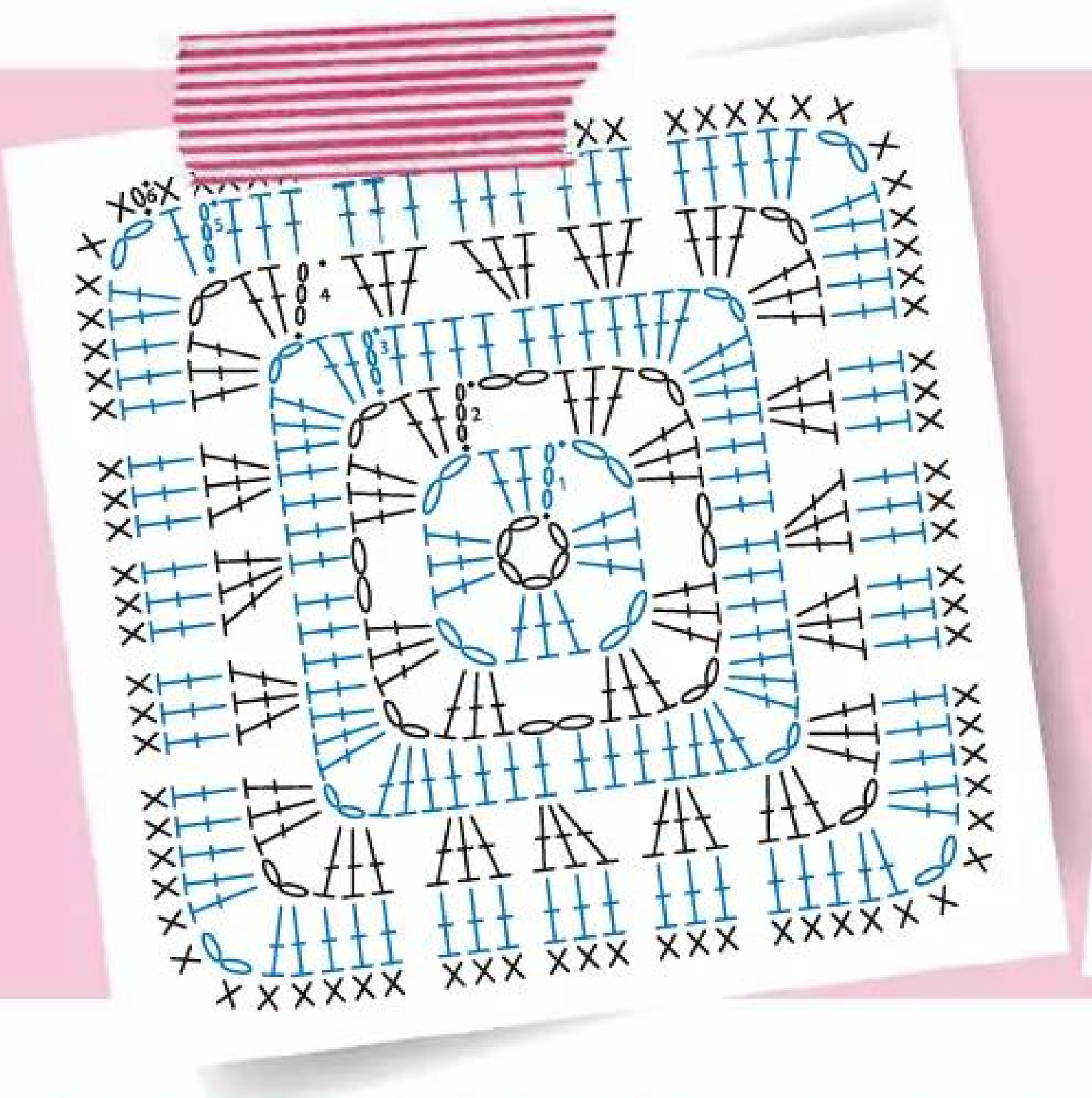
The first few rounds that you crochet might feel awkward or like you haven't done it right, but don't give up! Once you've crocheted a few rounds, it will become much easier and you'll be able to see satisfying results.

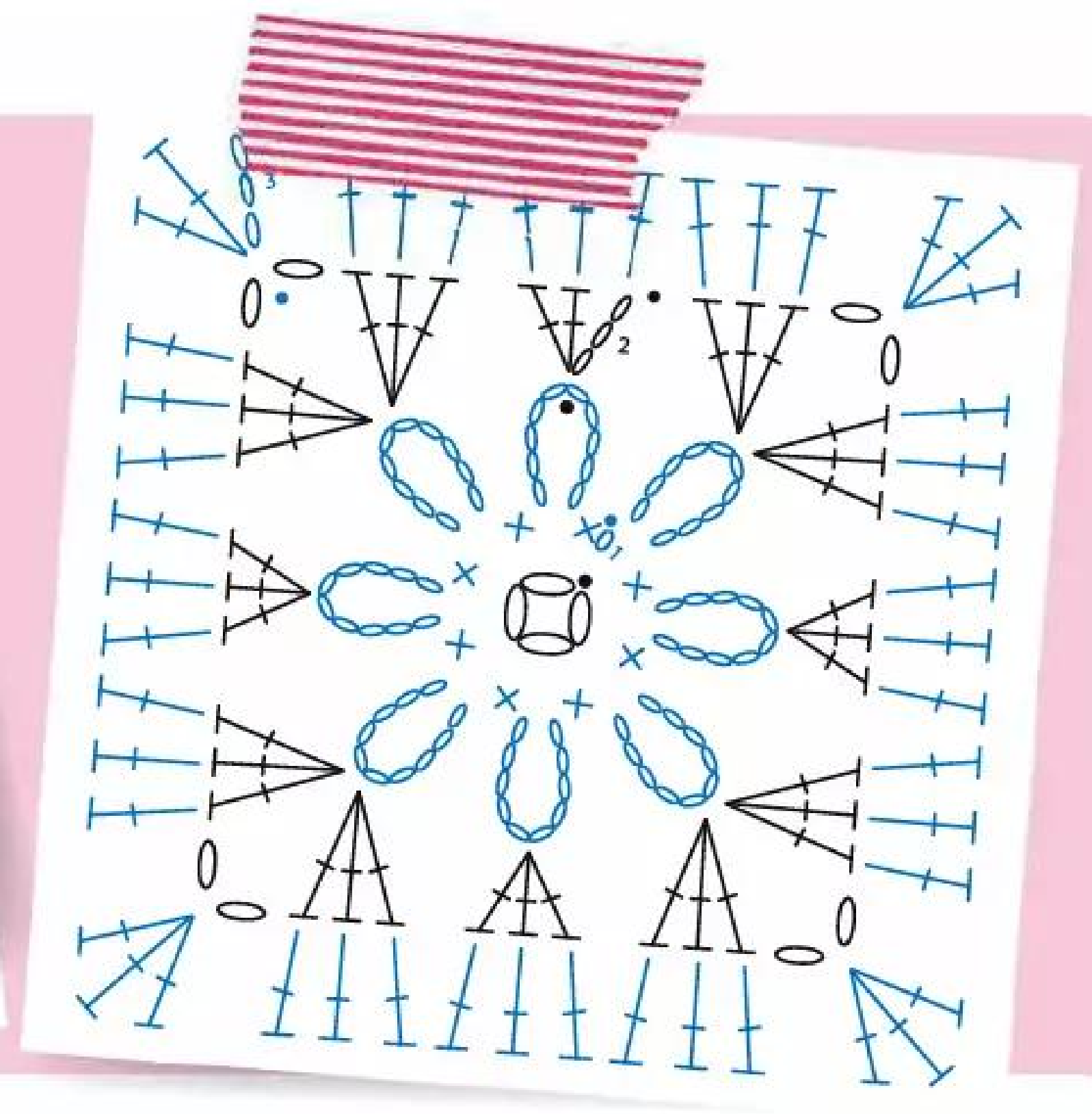
ROUNDS LIKE ROWS

Crochet in the round is similar to crochet in rows – make a turning chain at the start of every round, work stitches into the tops of the stitches on the previous round, then slip stitch the round closed.

CHARTED MOTIFS

Many patterns for crochet shapes and motifs, which are worked in the round, will also come with a chart. A crochet chart is a handy visual representation of where each stitch should be placed. These can be a really helpful guide when you're first starting to make foundation rings and work in rounds. Find our handy tutorial on reading crochet charts at www.gathered.how.





Three to try!

DESIGN IDEAS

Get your hook at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Crochet* magazine! To get the patterns from the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues by downloading the *Simply Crochet* app in the App Store, or to view on an Android device or a computer, find us on www.zinio.com/gb/simply-crochet-m6370. Every purchase is stored permanently in your magazine library. Once the magazine has been downloaded an internet connection is not required, so you craft whenever you like.

1 *Get going!*

BEGINNER

This card is great for beginners because the flower pattern is small and easy, and uses just double crochet, chains and slip stitch. Turn to page 64 to find the pattern and practise your skills.

2 *Rainbow bright*

IMPROVER

Melissa Masterson's hat from issue 78 of *Simply Crochet* is perfect if you're looking to improve your crocheting in the round. It uses half-trebles and gives you the chance to play with colour.

3 *Sweet toy*

EXPERT

Crocheting in the round is essential for creating amigurumi like this hedgehog from issue 84 of *Simply Crochet*. A fun challenge designed by Irene Strange, he even has a tiny picnic blanket and basket!

BASIC RING

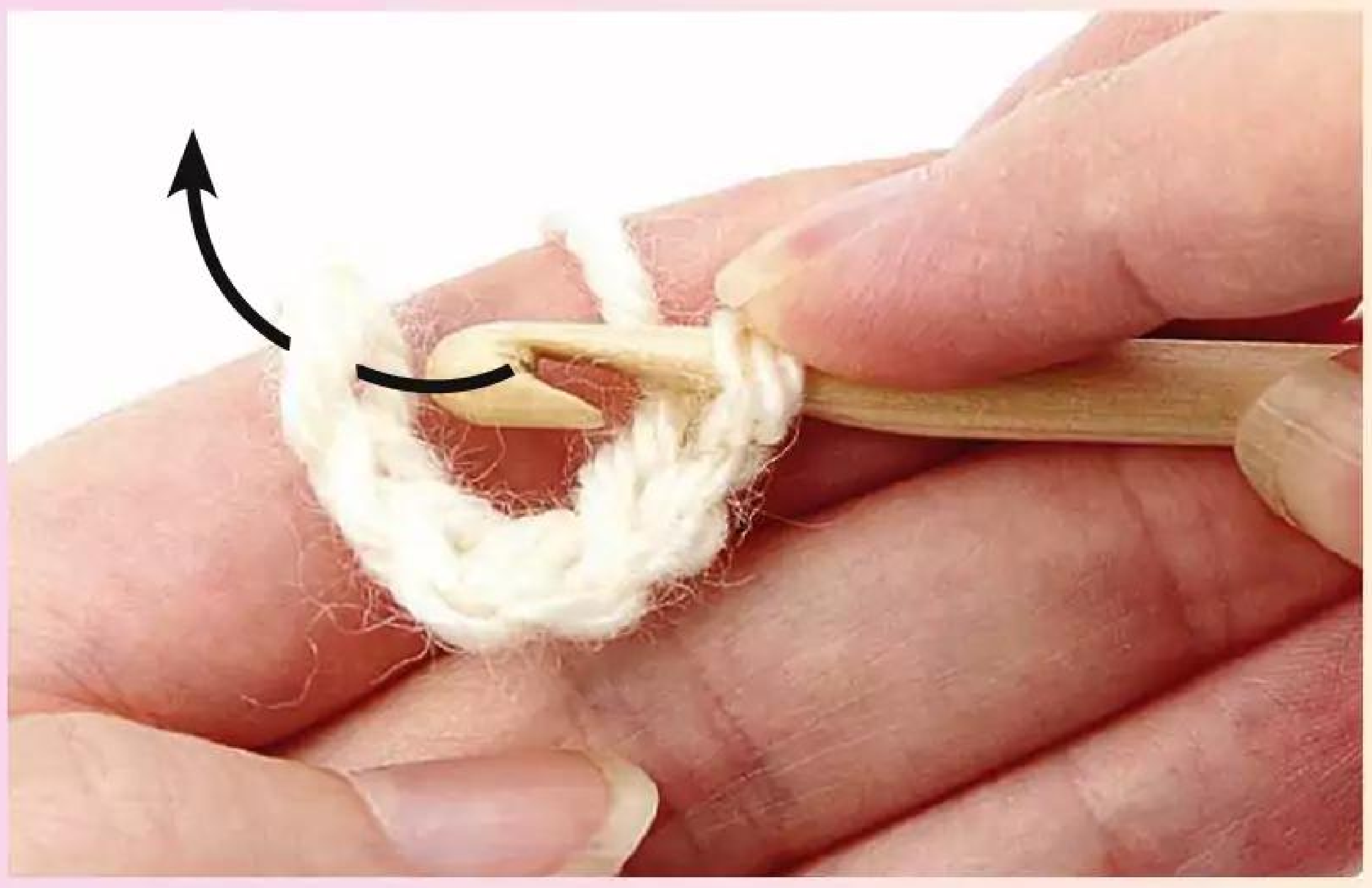
Start working in the round with this easy method

When you want to crochet stitches in the round, you need to make a special sort of foundation chain, usually called a foundation ring. There are many ways to do this, but below is the most common method. This involves making a short chain (such as ch4 or ch6) and then joining the first and last chains together with a slip stitch (see page 31 for a reminder).

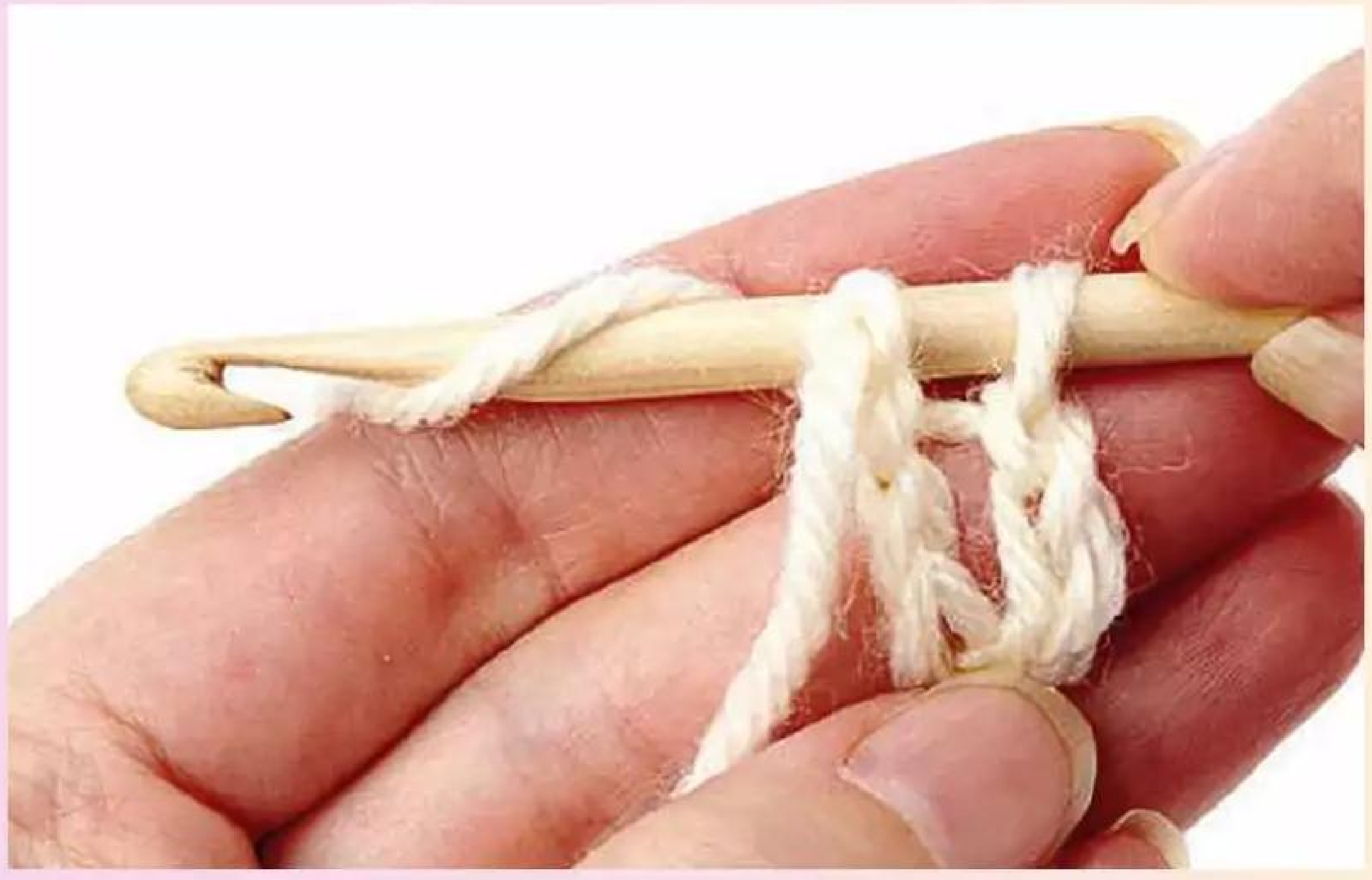
Different patterns will ask you to make a different length of chain: ch4 or ch6 are the most common so practise with these. When you make the chain length, don't count the loop on the hook or the slipknot, and don't mistake the slipknot for the first chain. Be careful not to twist the chain when you insert the hook for the slip stitch. Once you've made a foundation ring, you'll be ready to make the first round of stitches – we'll show you how overleaf, but first have a go at this type of ring.

RIGHT-HAND

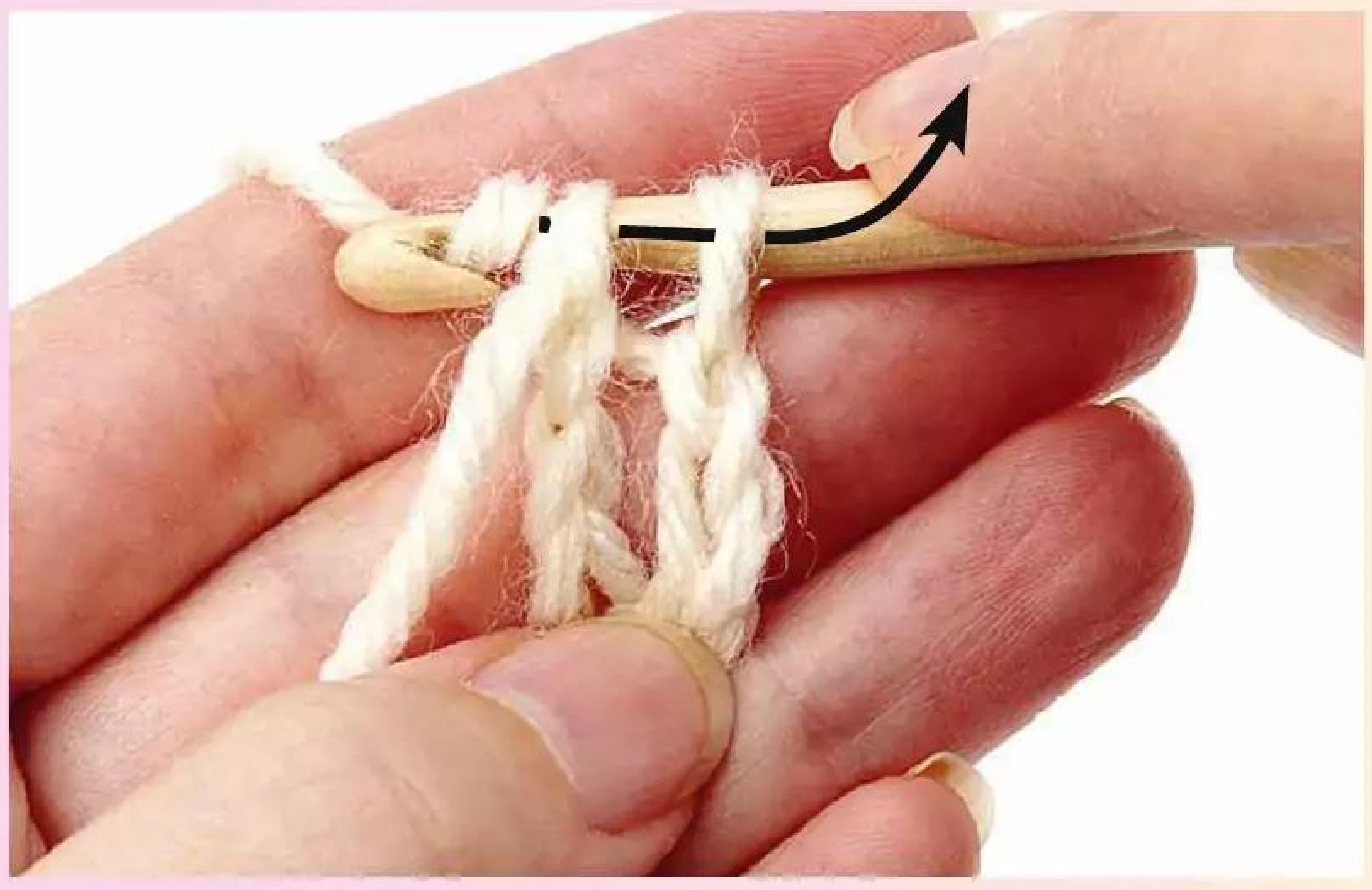
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to make a basic foundation ring...



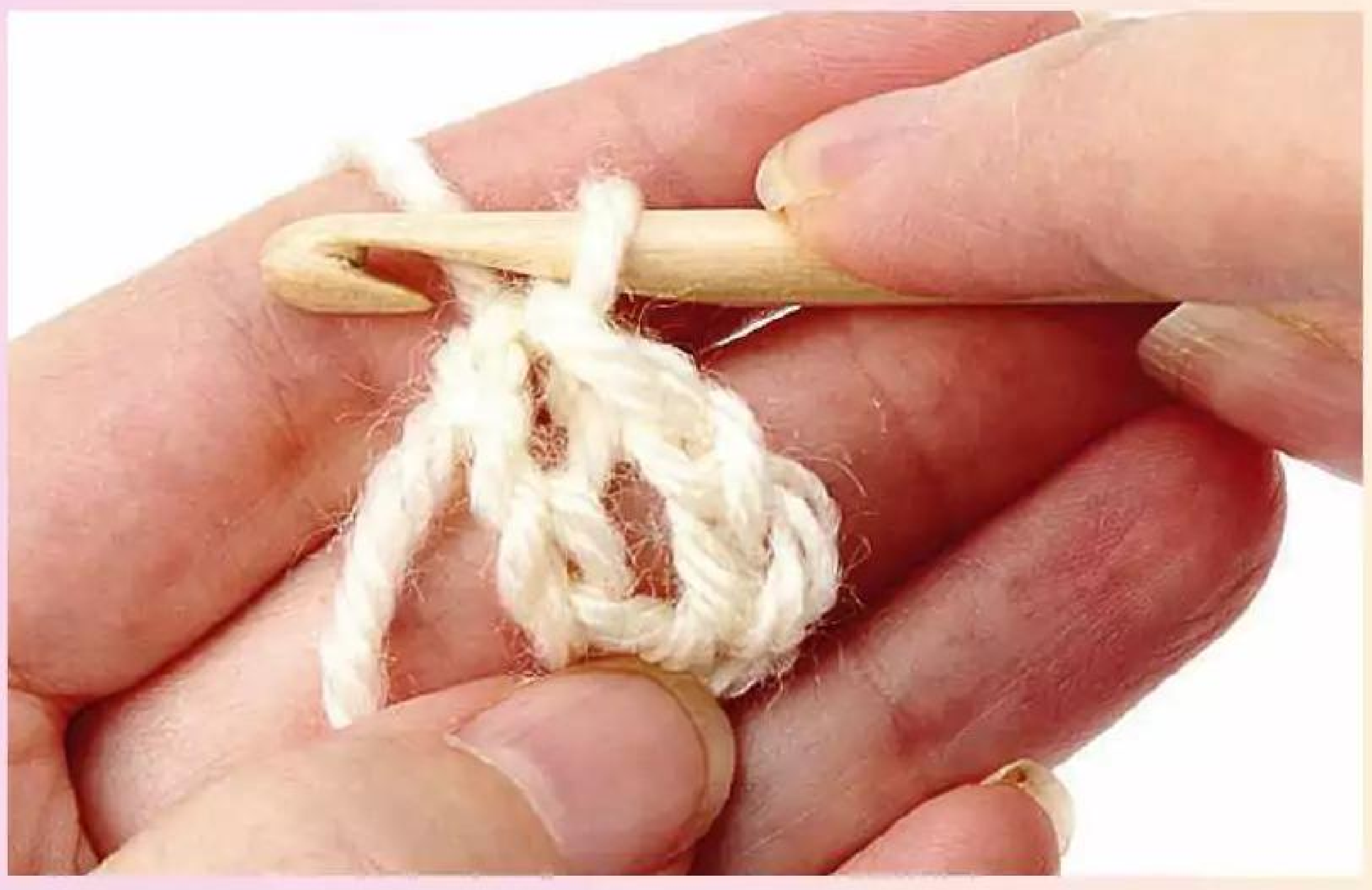
1 Make a chain length of 4 or 6 chains. Being careful not to twist the chain, insert the hook into the first stitch you made (not the slipknot).



2 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps anticlockwise around it – this is called yarn round hook (abbreviated as 'yrh').



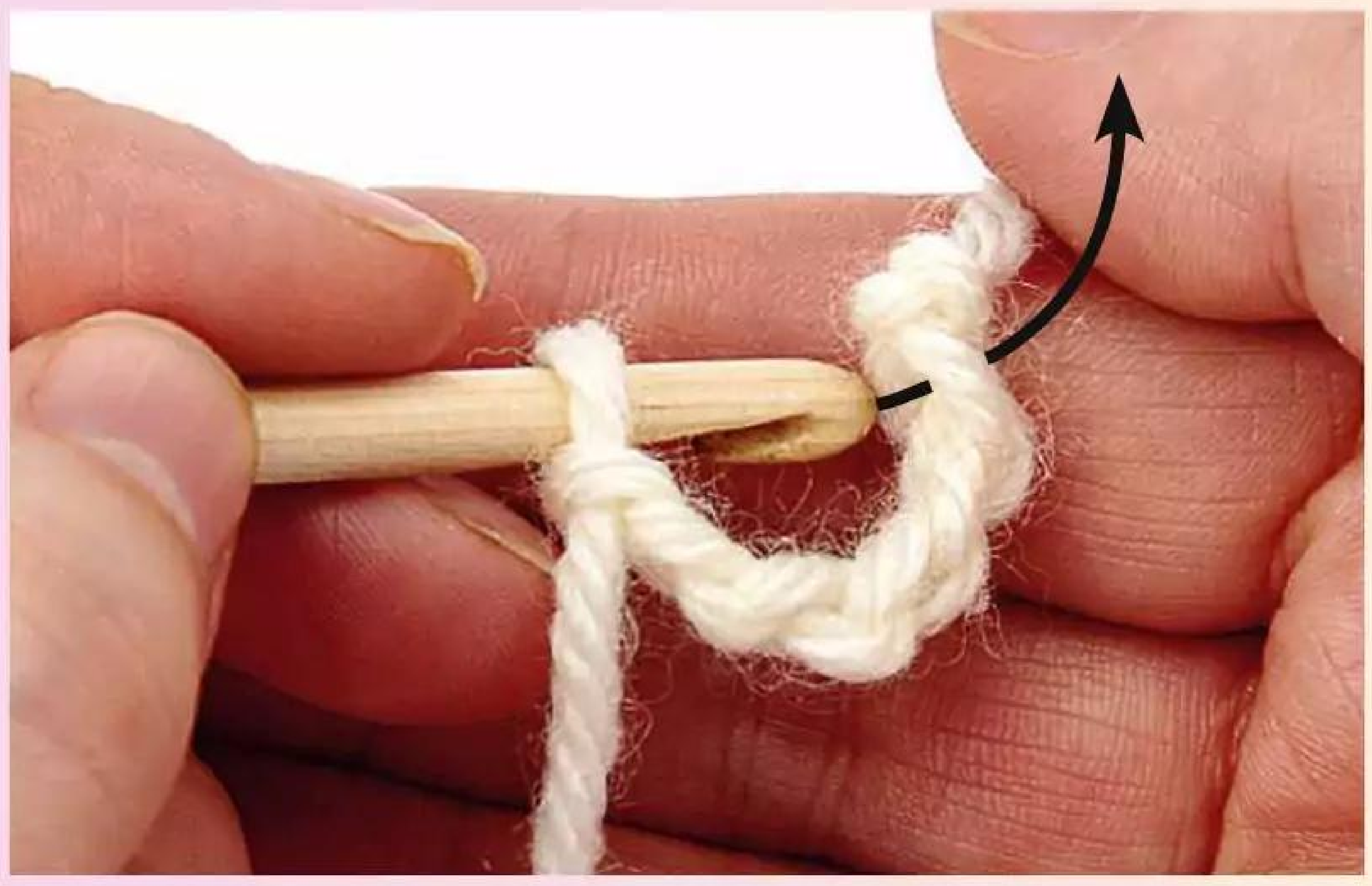
3 Gently pull the hook (and yarn) back towards the two loops on the hook (one loop is the stitch you inserted the hook into, the other loop is the original working loop you had on the hook).



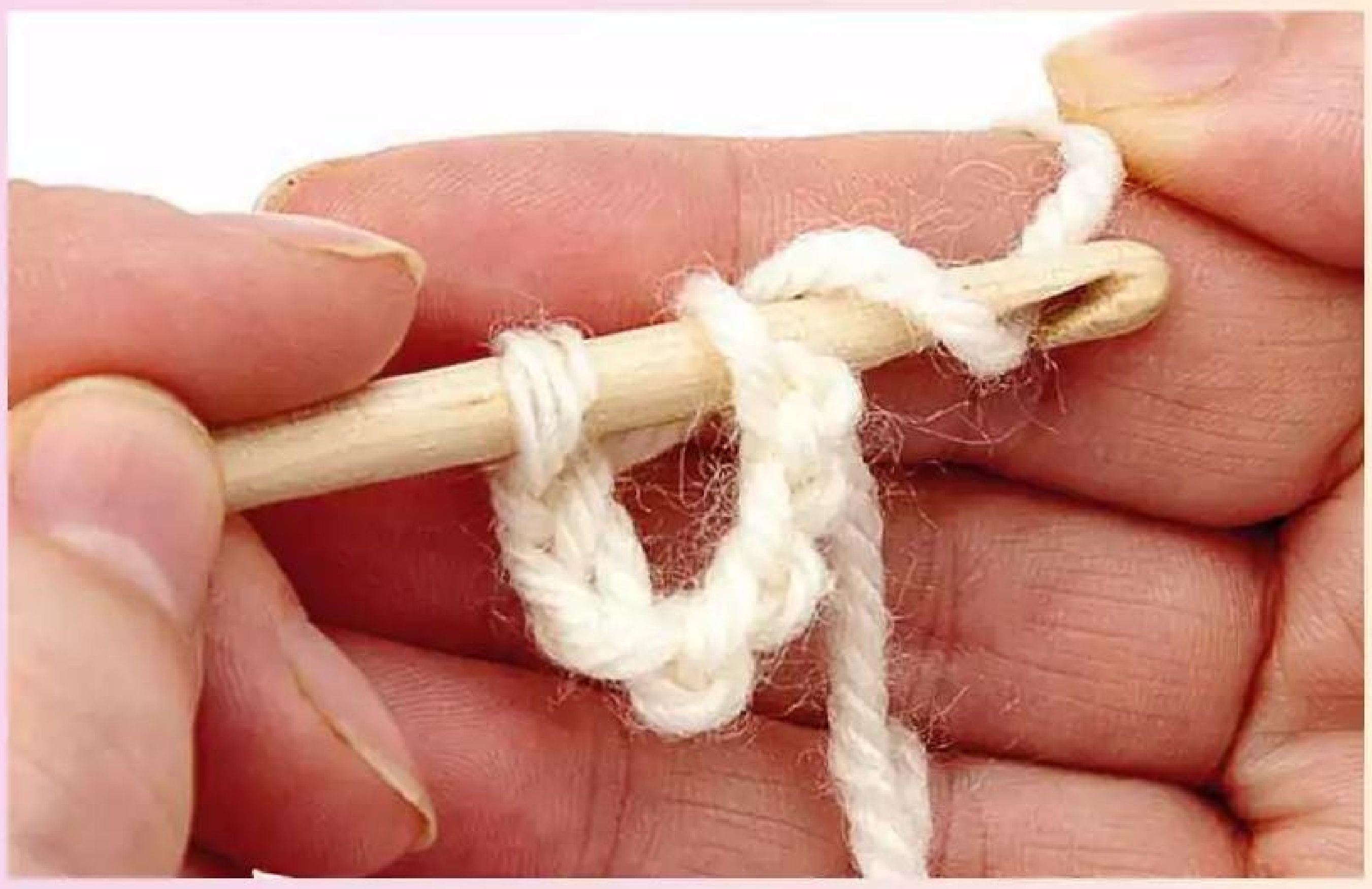
4 Draw the hook and yarn through both loops on the hook to finish the slip stitch. You'll see how the slip stitch has joined the first and last chains into a foundation ring.

LEFT-HAND

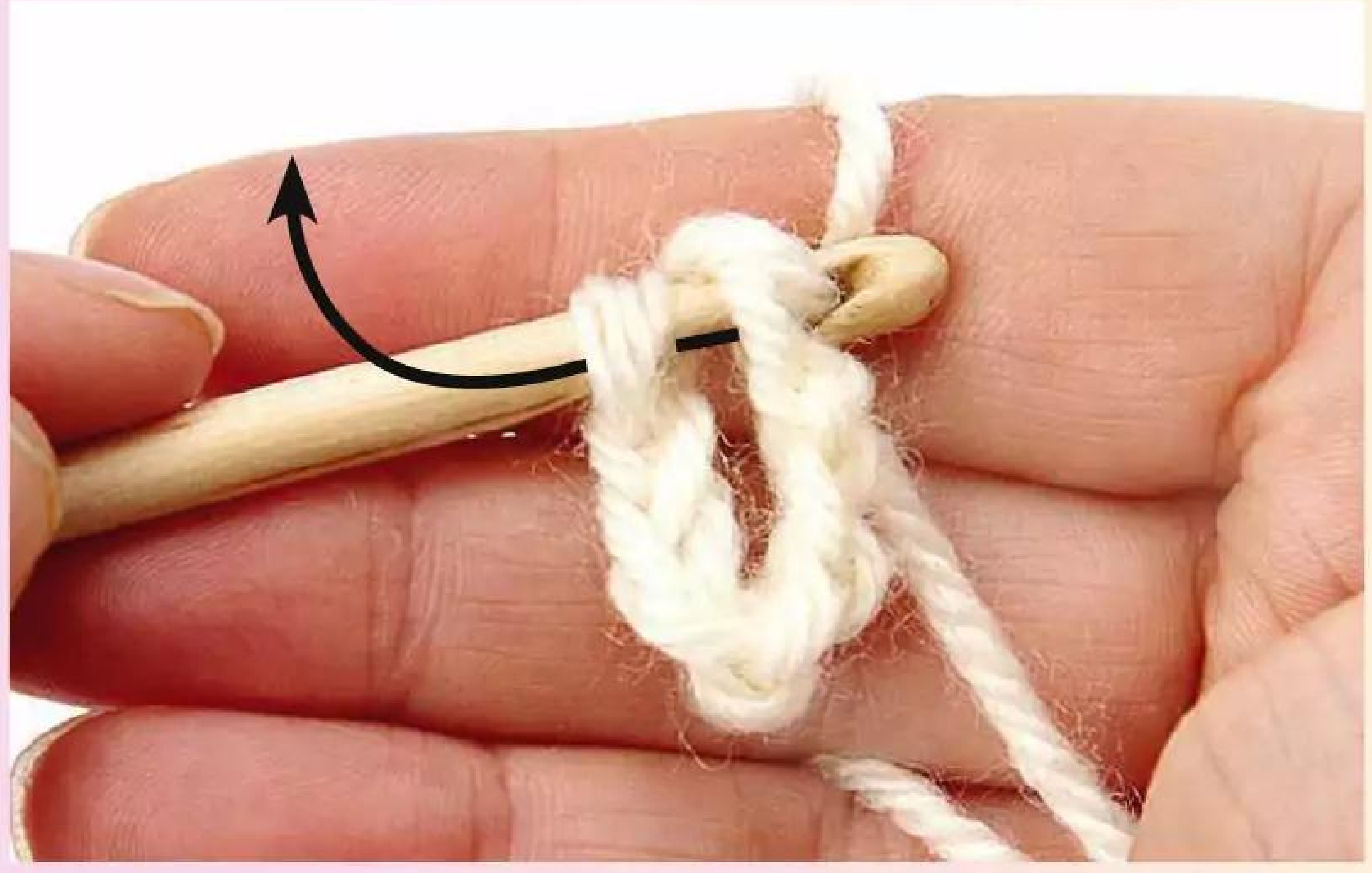
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to master the treble crochet stitch...



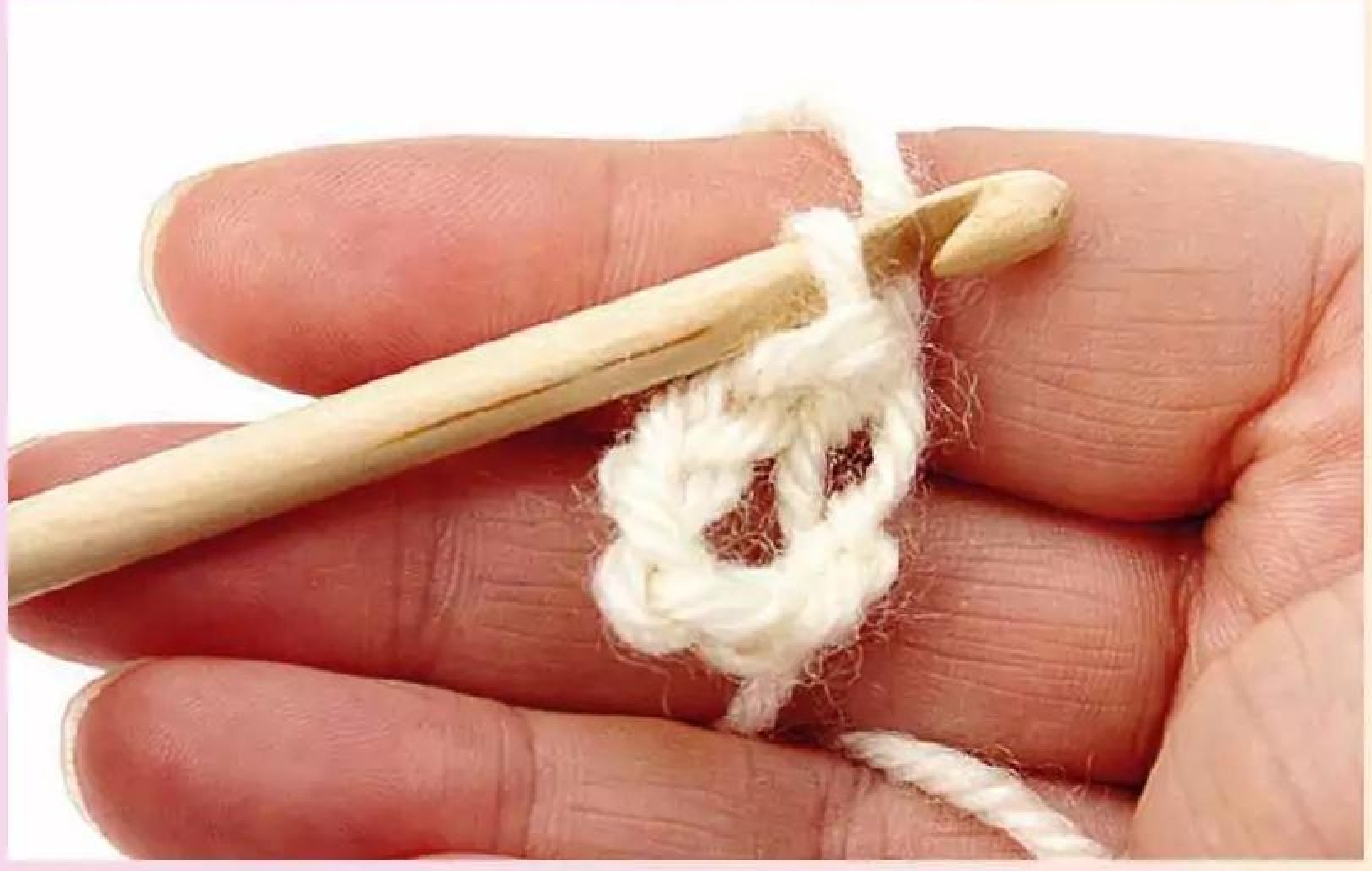
1 Make a chain length of 4 or 6 chains. Being careful not to twist the chain, insert the hook into the first stitch you made (not the slipknot).



2 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps clockwise around it – this is called yarn round hook (abbreviated as yrh).



3 Gently pull the hook (and yarn) back towards the two loops on the hook (one loop is the stitch you inserted the hook into, the other loop is the original working loop you had on the hook).



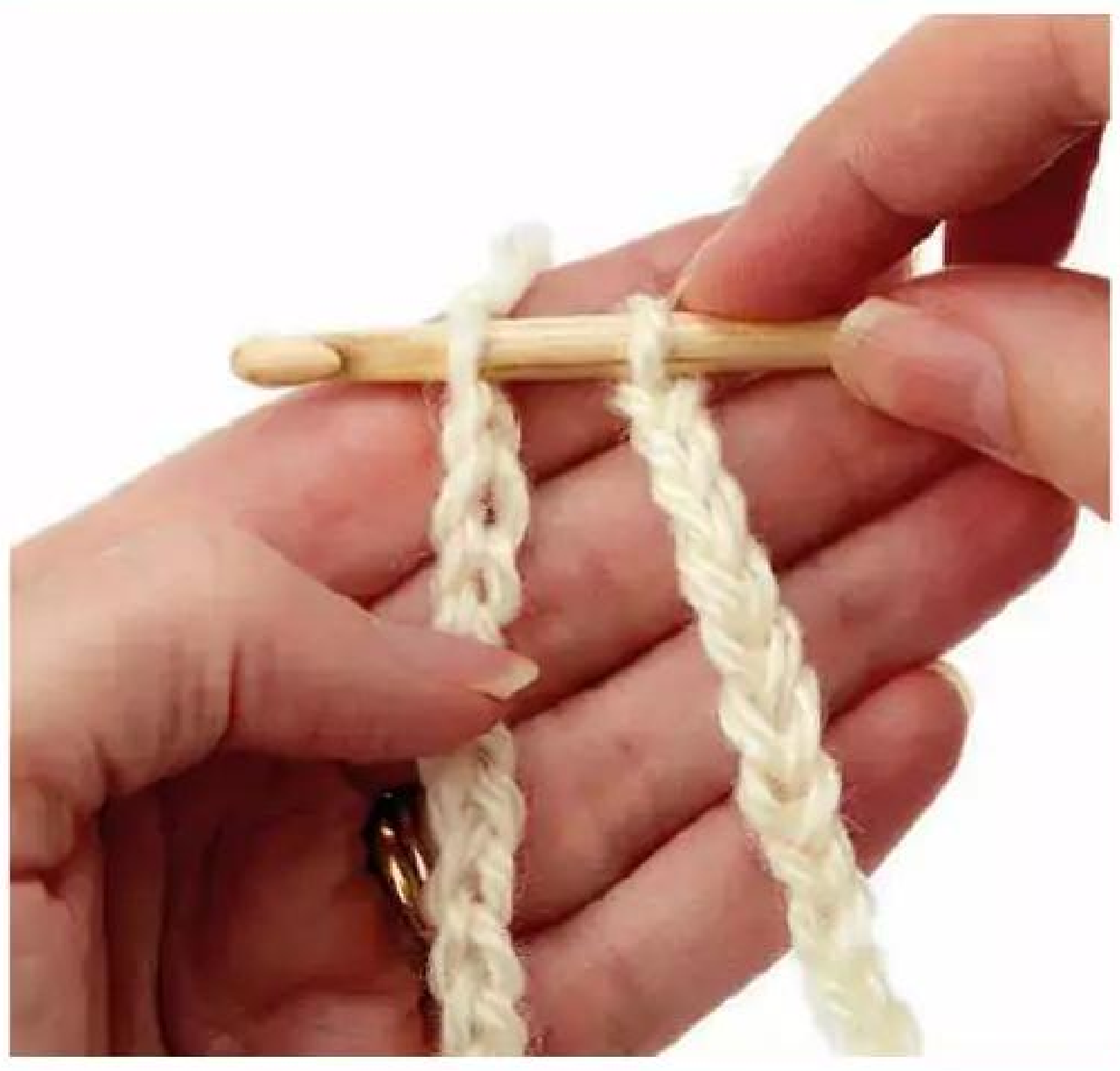
4 Draw the hook and yarn through both loops on the hook to finish the slip stitch. You'll see how the slip stitch has joined the first and last chains into a foundation ring.

LONG FOUNDATION RINGS

Double check that you haven't twisted the chain length

The above foundation ring method is the simplest and most common one you'll find in patterns for flat shapes, such as granny squares or flowers.

Sometimes you'll be asked to use this same method to create a much longer foundation ring (see right). This technique is handy for crocheting tubular shapes (see far right), such as a sleeve or cowl. With such a long chain, it's vital to check carefully that you haven't twisted it before you join it together.



DOUBLE CROCHET ROUNDS

How to work the first round in double crochet

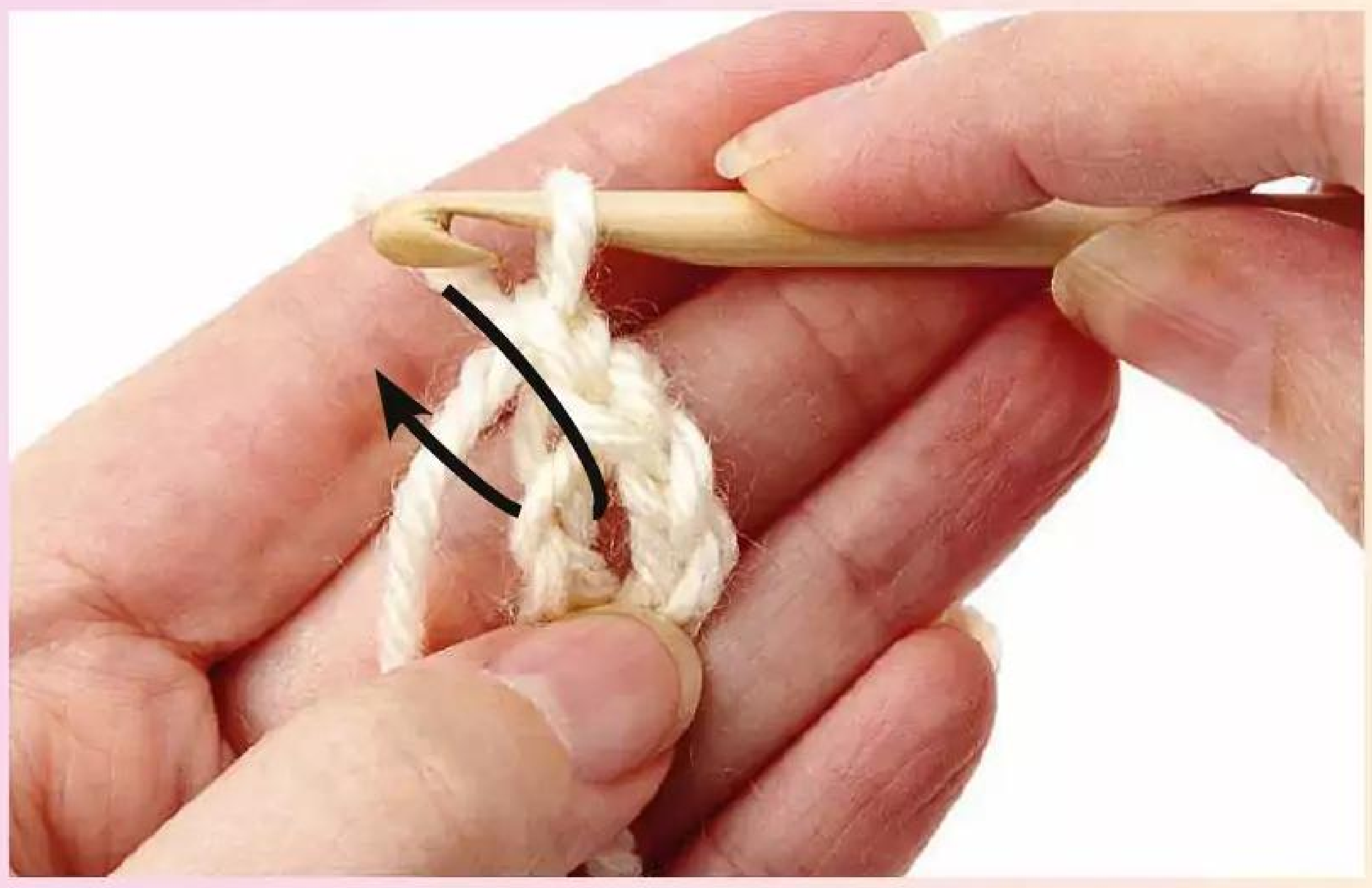
Once you have a foundation ring, you can make your first round of stitches. We'll show you how to work the first round in double crochet below (see overleaf for treble crochet).

The rules for working in the round are simple, although some patterns differ, so always follow the instructions in the pattern you're using. Whether you're using doubles, trebles, or other stitches, you'll need to make a turning chain at the start of each round (see page 46 for more about turning chains). Then you can work the stitches of that round. At the end of every round, join the last stitch to the first stitch using a slip stitch (we'll show you how below).

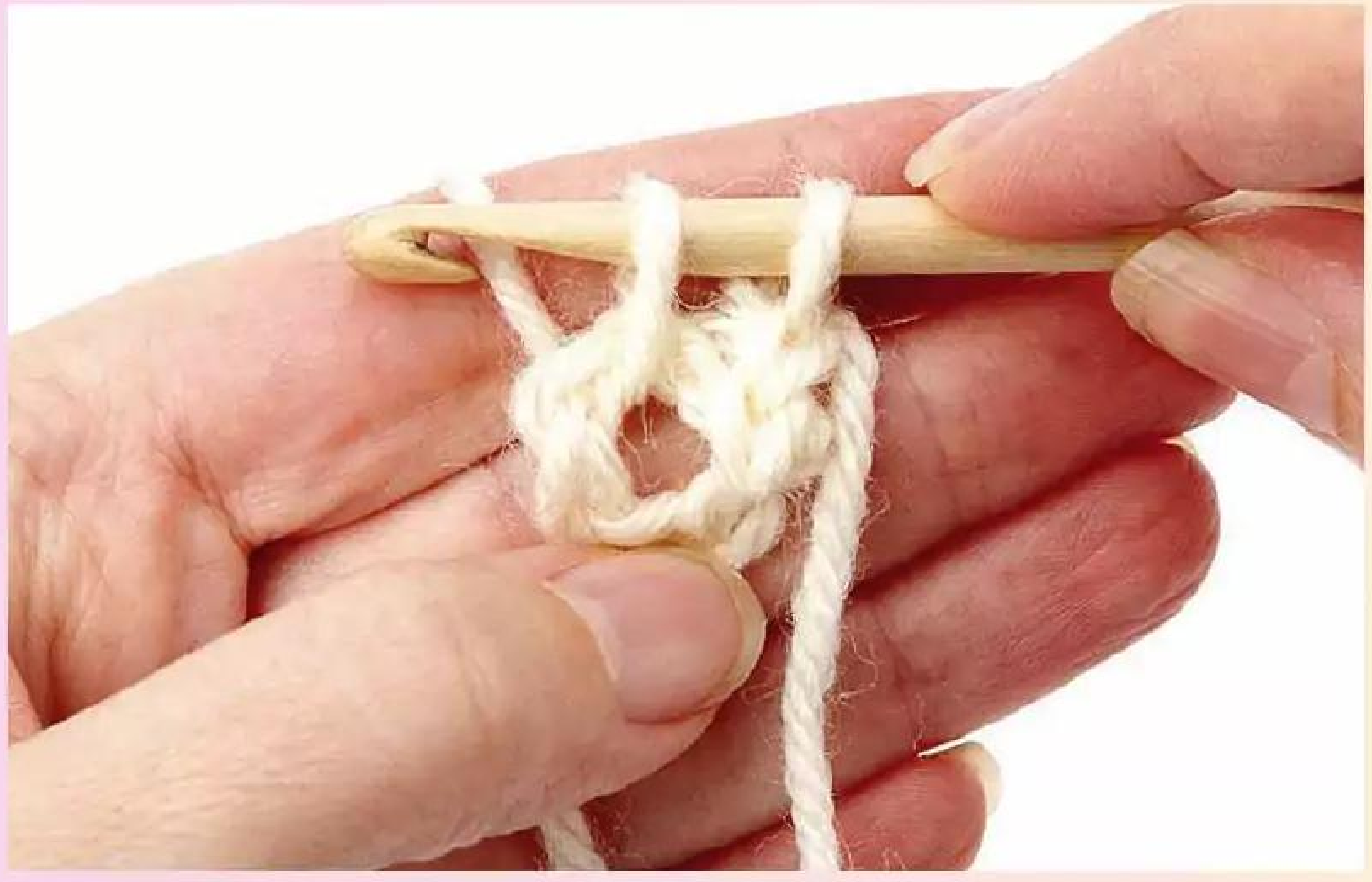
On the first round of a long foundation ring, work each stitch into each chain as usual. On the first round of a small ring, insert the hook into the gap at the centre of the ring and work stitches here instead of into each chain. This makes it much easier to see what you're doing and provides a firmer foundation for the ring.

RIGHT-HAND

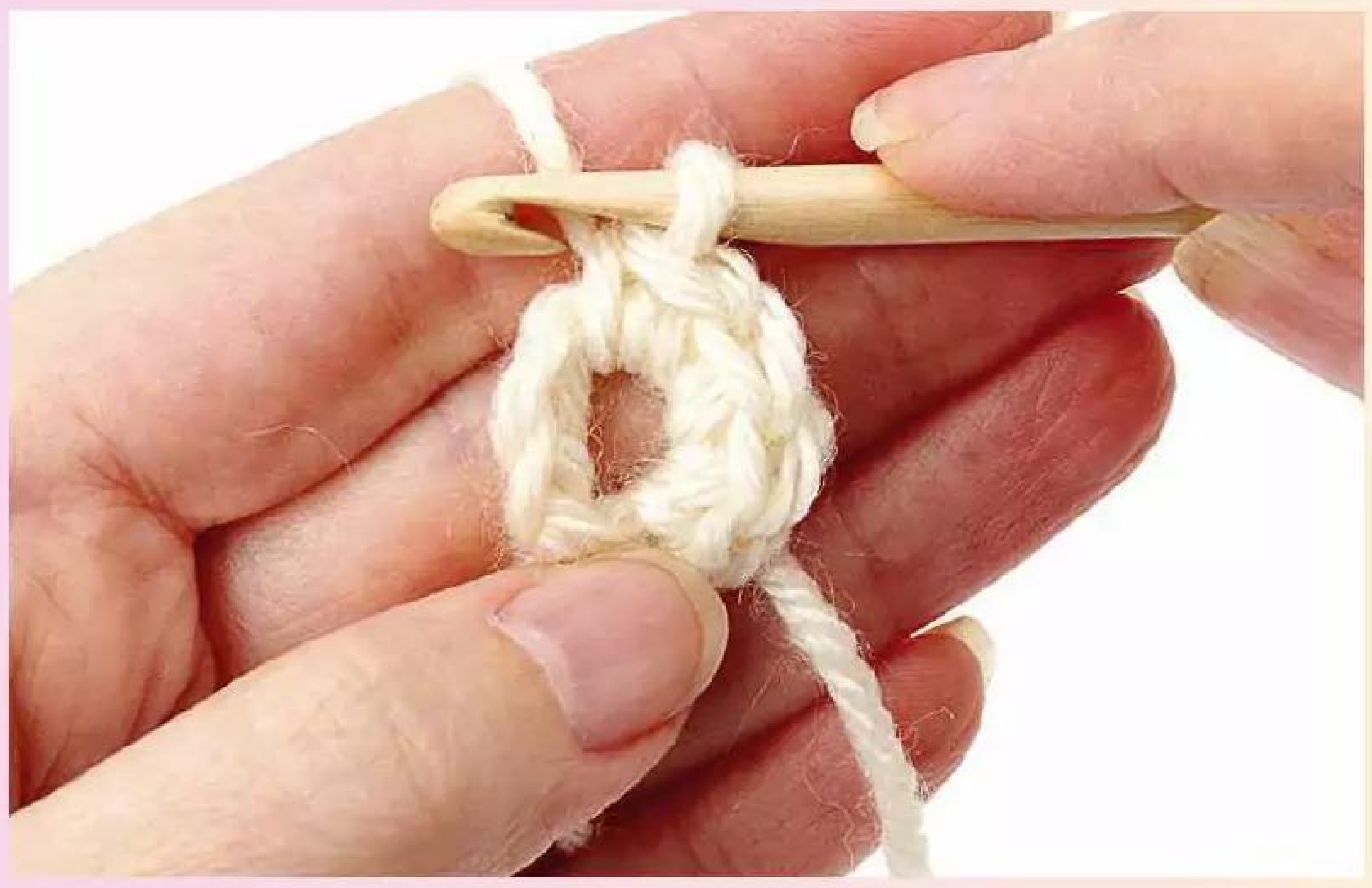
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to work the first round of double crochet...



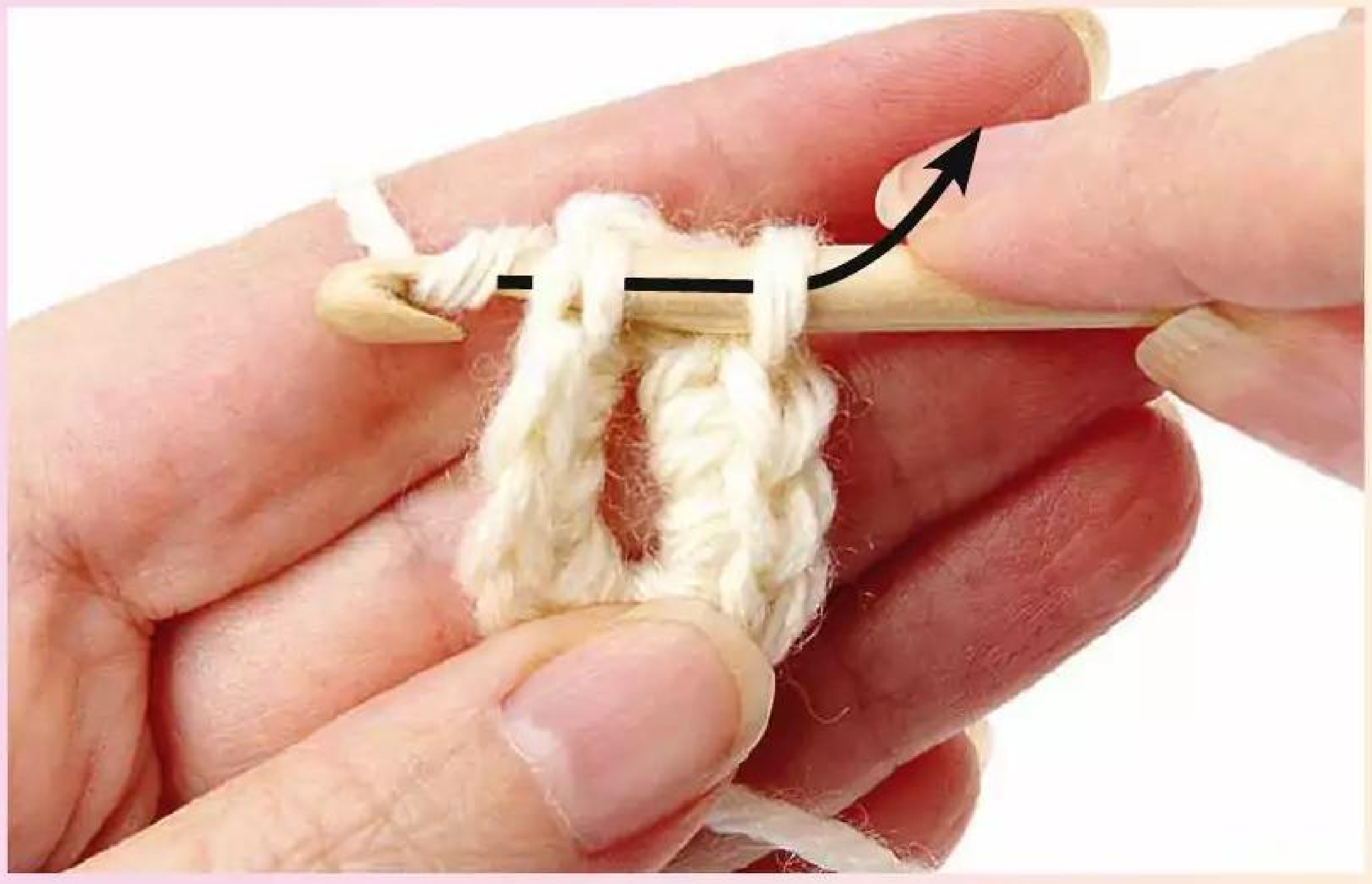
1 Make a basic foundation ring and don't turn the work. Make one turning chain for double crochet (does not count as stitch). To start your first double crochet stitch, insert the hook into the centre of the ring.



2 Work yarn round hook and pull yarn through the centre of the foundation ring (two loops on hook). Finish the stitch as usual (yarn round hook again, pull yarn through remaining two loops on hook).



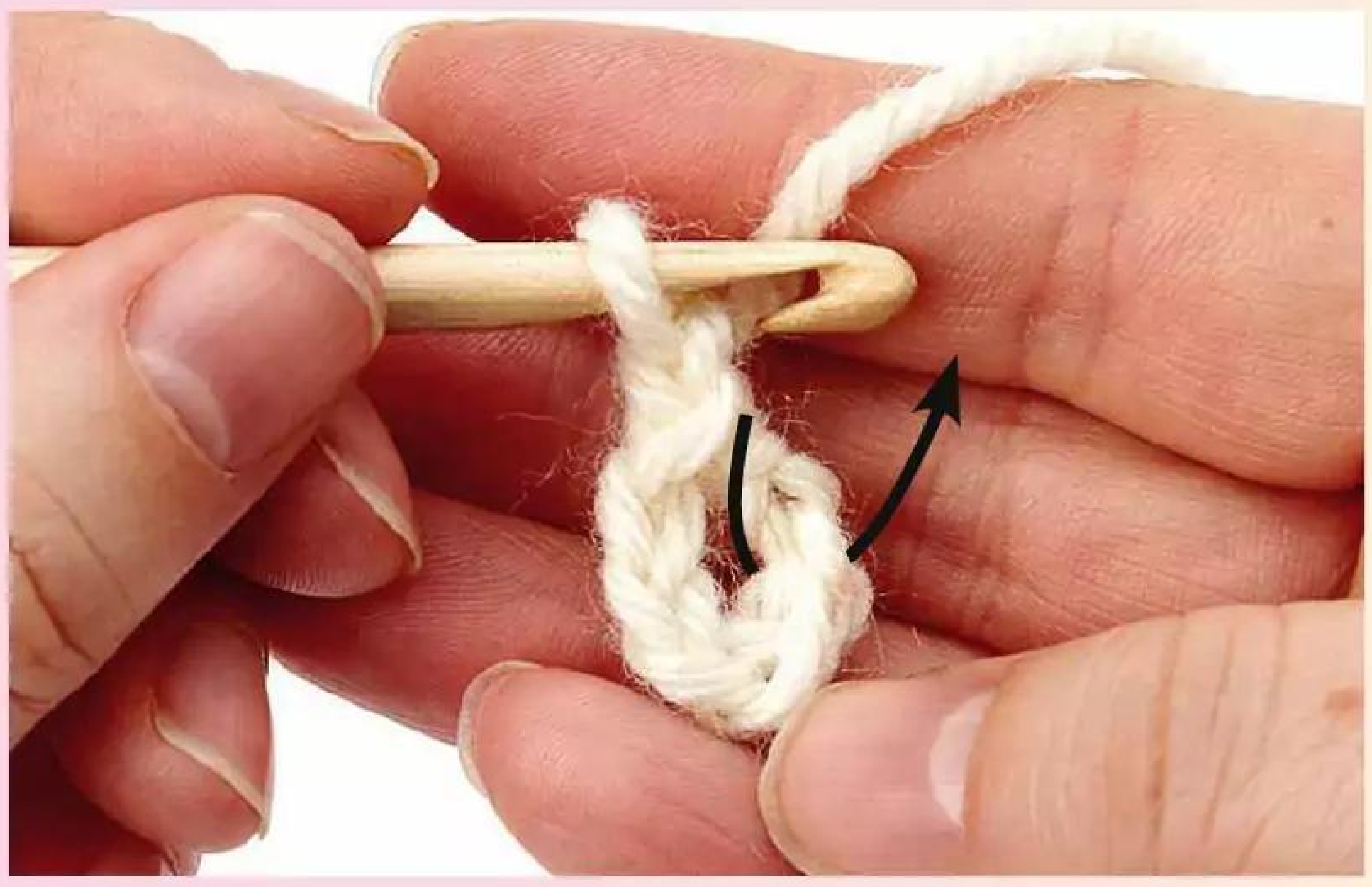
3 Work more double crochet stitches in the same way (inserting hook into the centre of the ring), as instructed in your pattern, pushing the stitches closer if you need to.



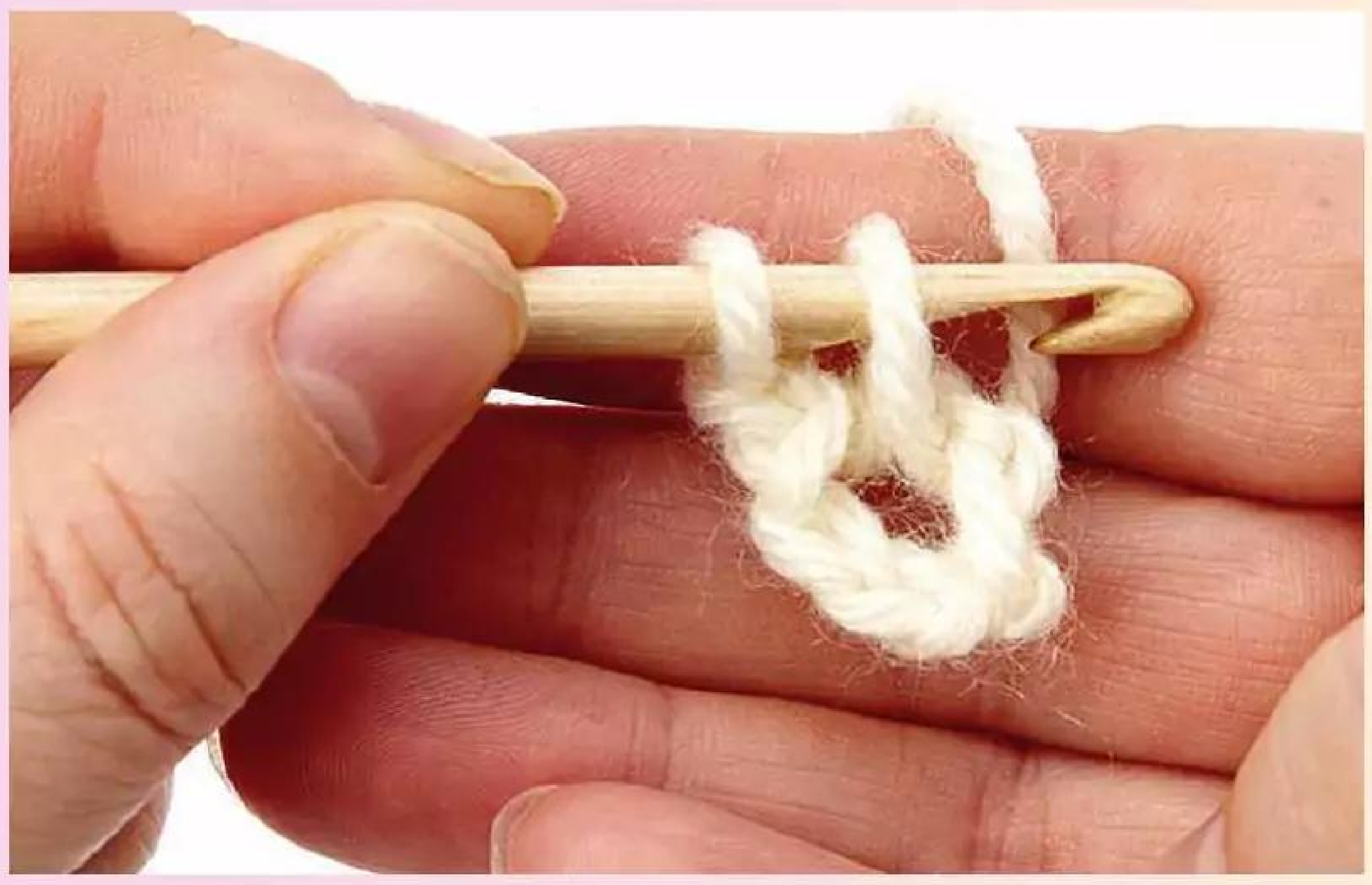
4 After the last stitch, insert hook under the top two loops of the first double crochet stitch (not the turning chain). Work a slip stitch (yrh, pull through both loops).

LEFT-HAND

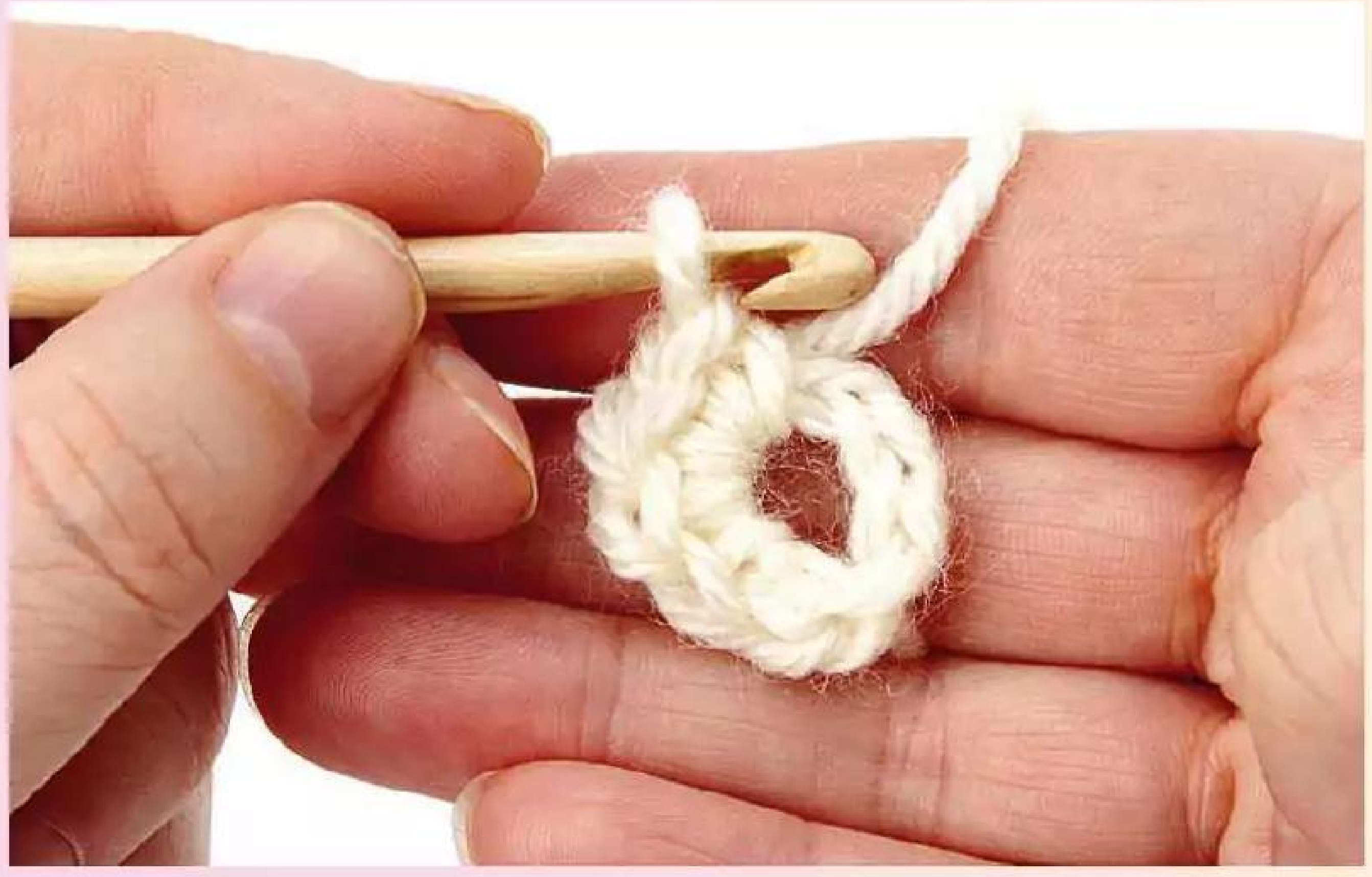
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to work the first round of double crochet…



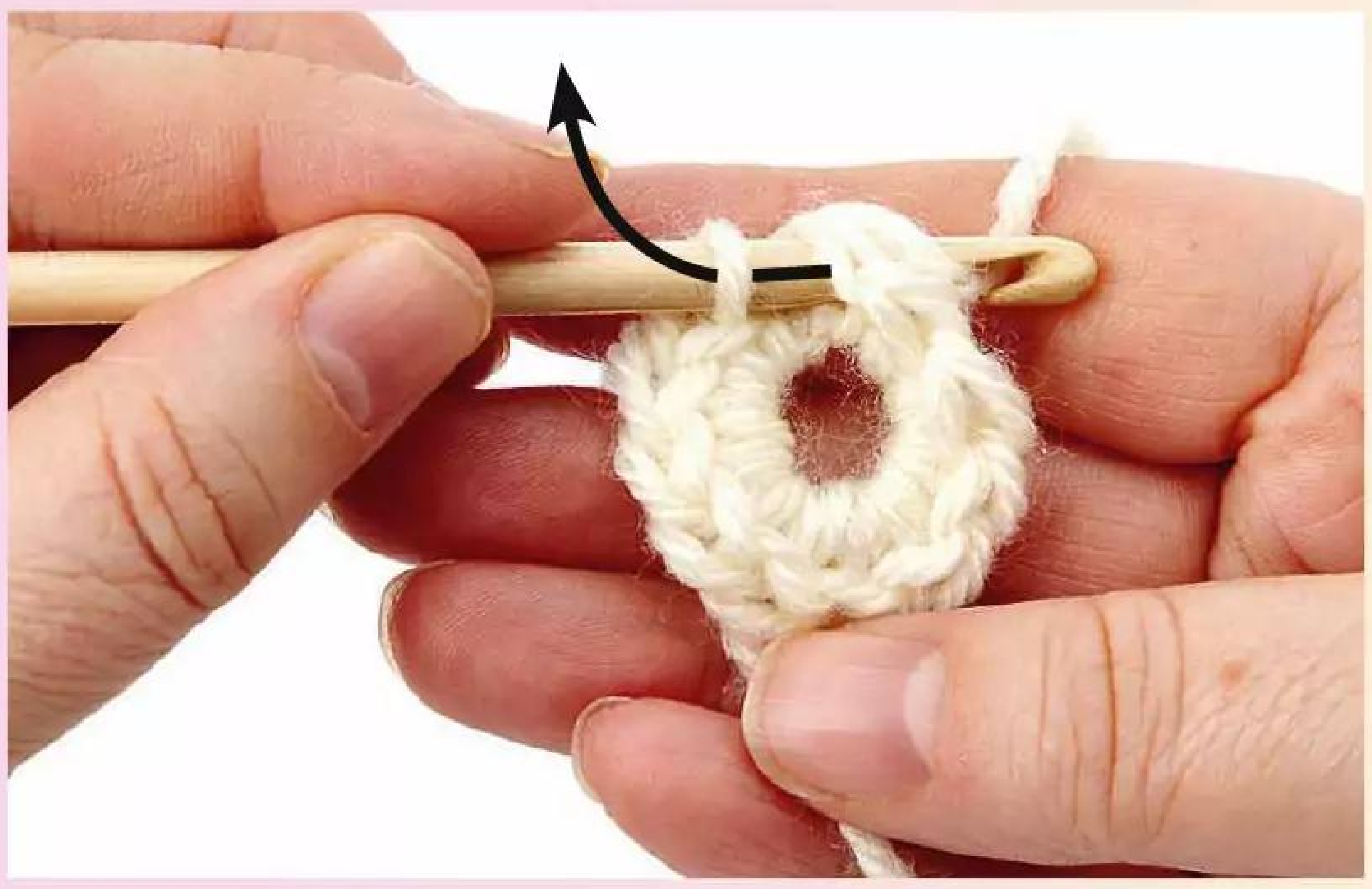
1 Make a basic foundation ring and don't turn the work. Make one turning chain for double crochet (does not count as stitch). To start your first double crochet stitch, insert the hook into the centre of the ring.



2 Work yarn round hook and pull yarn through the centre of the foundation ring (two loops on hook). Finish the stitch as usual (yarn round hook again, pull yarn through remaining two loops on hook).



3 Work more double crochet stitches in the same way (inserting hook into the centre of the ring), as instructed in your pattern, pushing the stitches closer if you need to.



4 After the last stitch, insert hook under the top two loops of the first double crochet stitch (not the turning chain). Work a slip stitch (yrh, pull through both loops).

HOW TO WORK MORE ROUNDS

Keep adding more stitches in the round to create interesting shapes

After you finish the first round of double crochet stitches, your ring should look like something this (see right). You can see that when you use the basic ring method, you end up with a small hole at the centre of your motif. To work the next round(s), make the turning chain (1ch for double crochet), then work the stitches into the tops of the stitches on the first round below, just as you do when you work in rows. To make a flat shape, like this flower (see far right), you'll be asked to increase stitches (more on this later). At the end of each round, join to the first stitch with a slip stitch.

TREBLE CROCHET ROUNDS

How to work the first round in treble crochet

Once you've mastered double crochet in the round, try treble crochet in the round. Make a basic ring and then follow our guide below to work the first round of trebles.

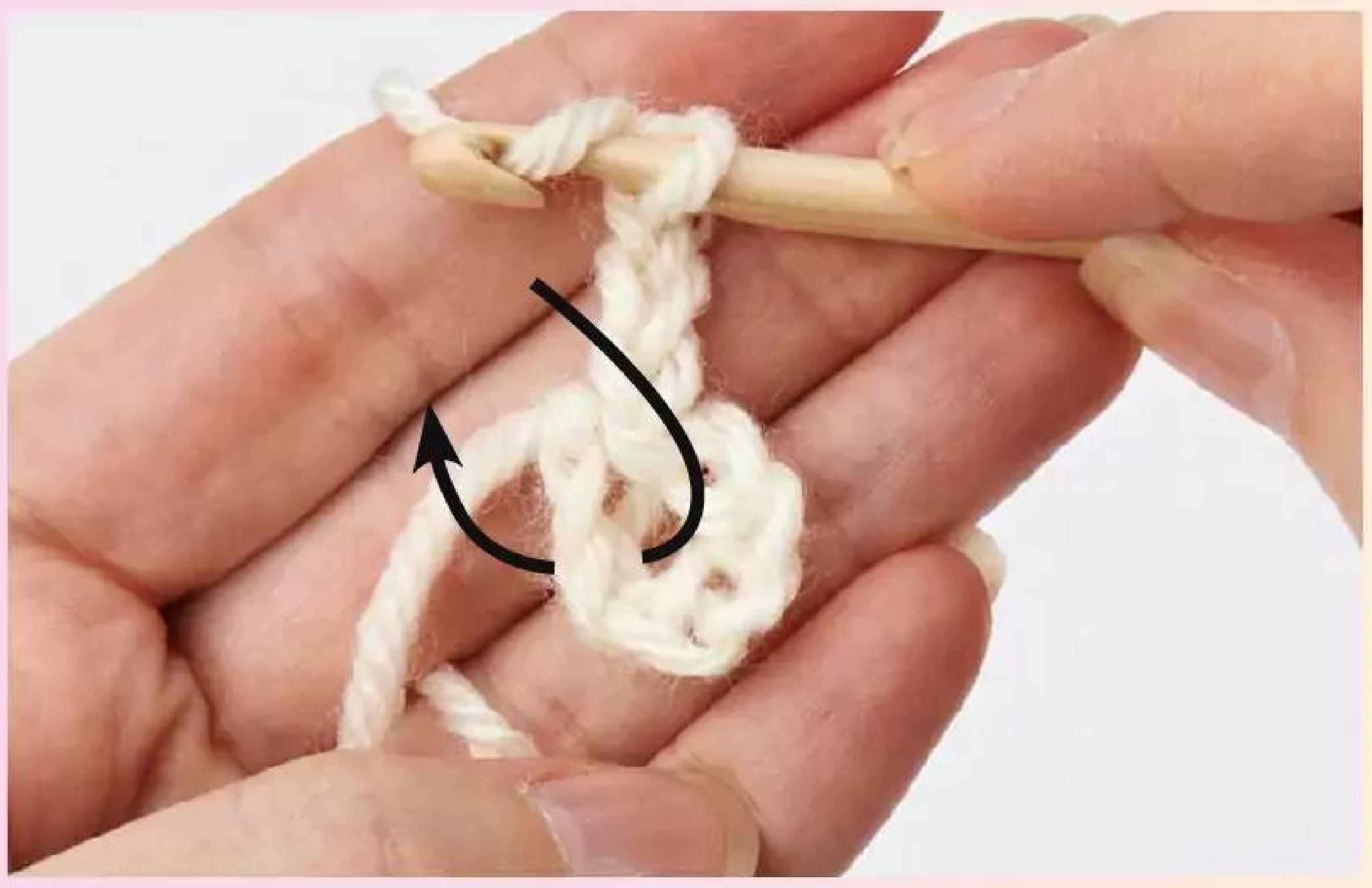
With treble crochet, you'll need to make a 3-ch turning chain at the start of every round (see page 46 for more details about turning chains). Then you can work the stitches of that round. At the end of every round, join the last stitch to the first stitch using a slip stitch (we'll show you how in the photos below).

On the first round of a long foundation ring, work a stitch into each chain as usual. On the first round of a small ring, it's better to work the stitches into the gap at the centre of the ring, so insert the hook here and not into each chain.

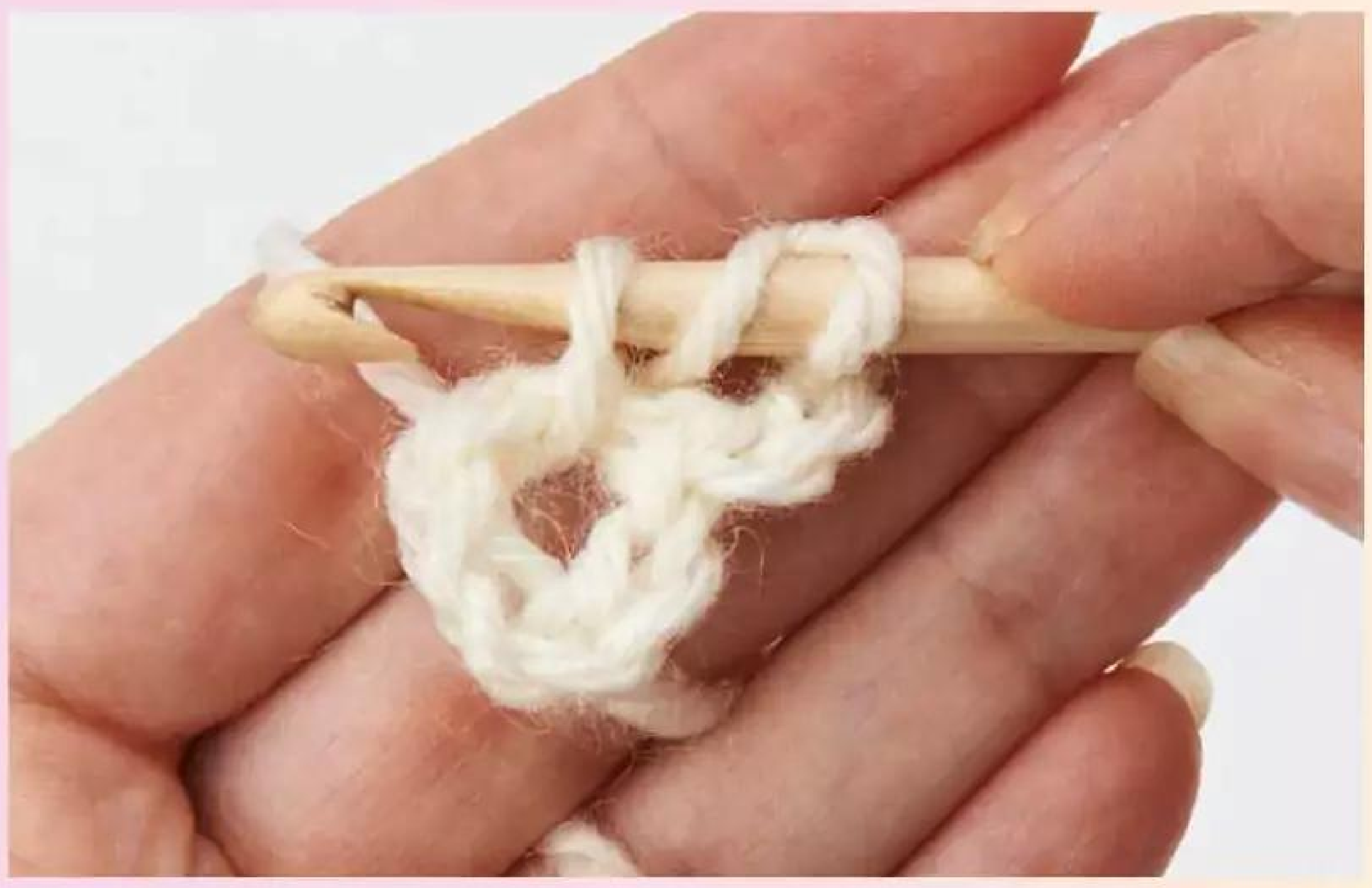
Here we're giving you some general rules for working in the round but some patterns may differ slightly. Take care to always follow the instructions in the pattern you're using to get the best results.

RIGHT-HAND

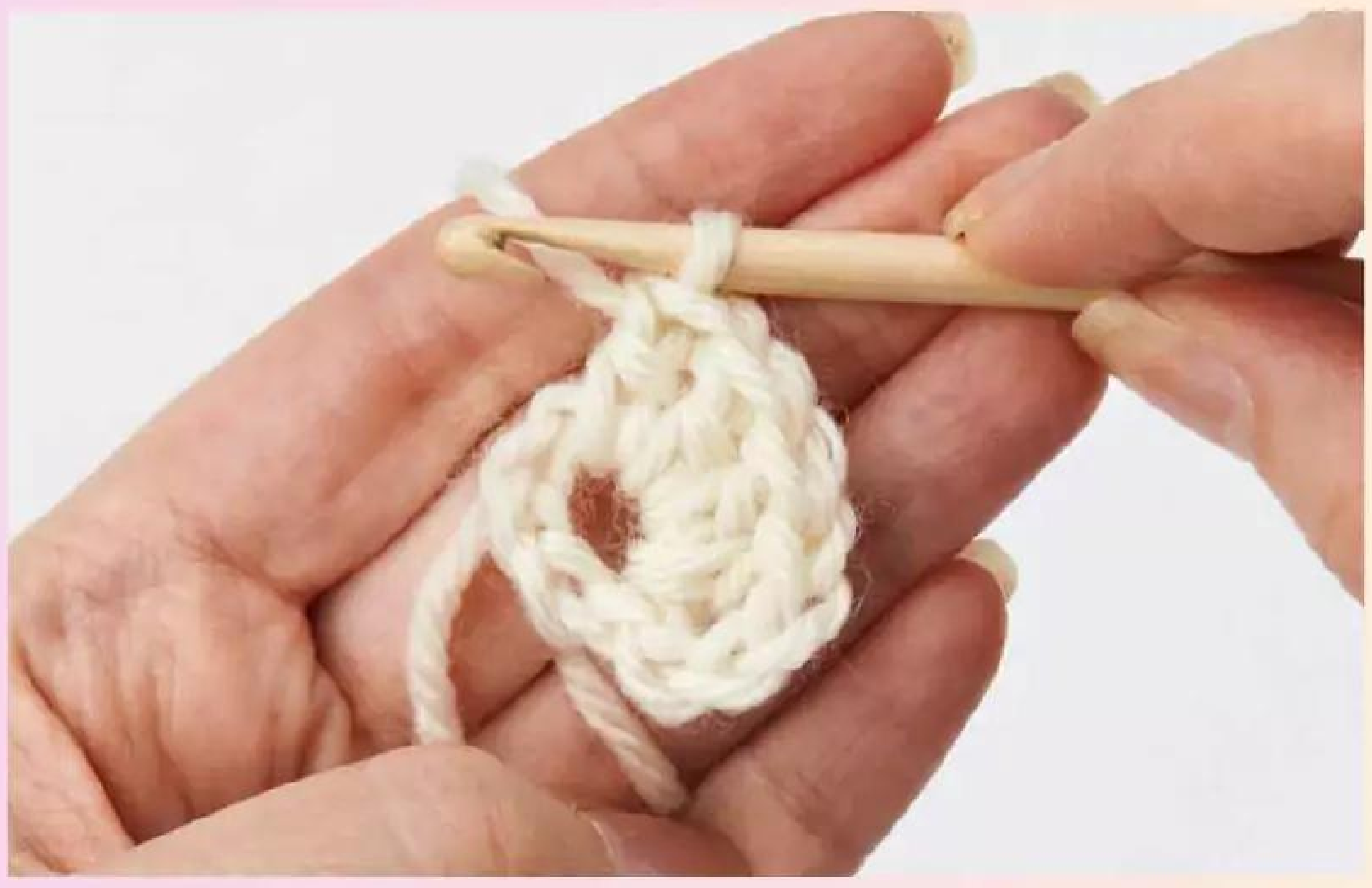
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to work the first round of treble crochet...



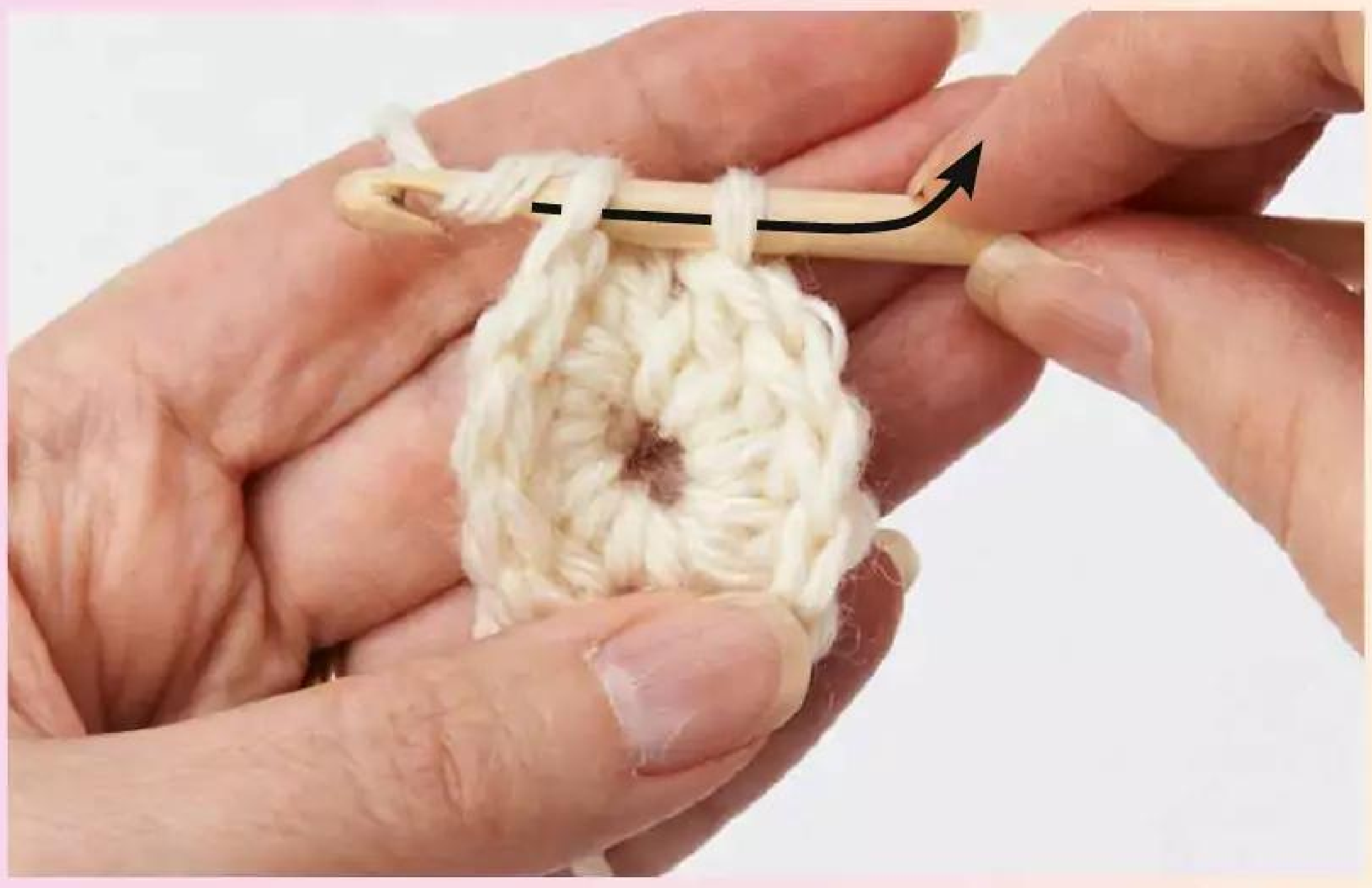
1 Make a basic foundation ring and don't turn the work. Make three turning chains for treble crochet (this counts as a stitch). To start your first treble crochet stitch, work yrh and insert hook into the centre of the ring.



2 Work yarn round hook and pull yarn through the centre of the foundation ring (three loops on hook). Finish the stitch as usual (yrh, pull through first two loops, yrh, pull through remaining two loops).



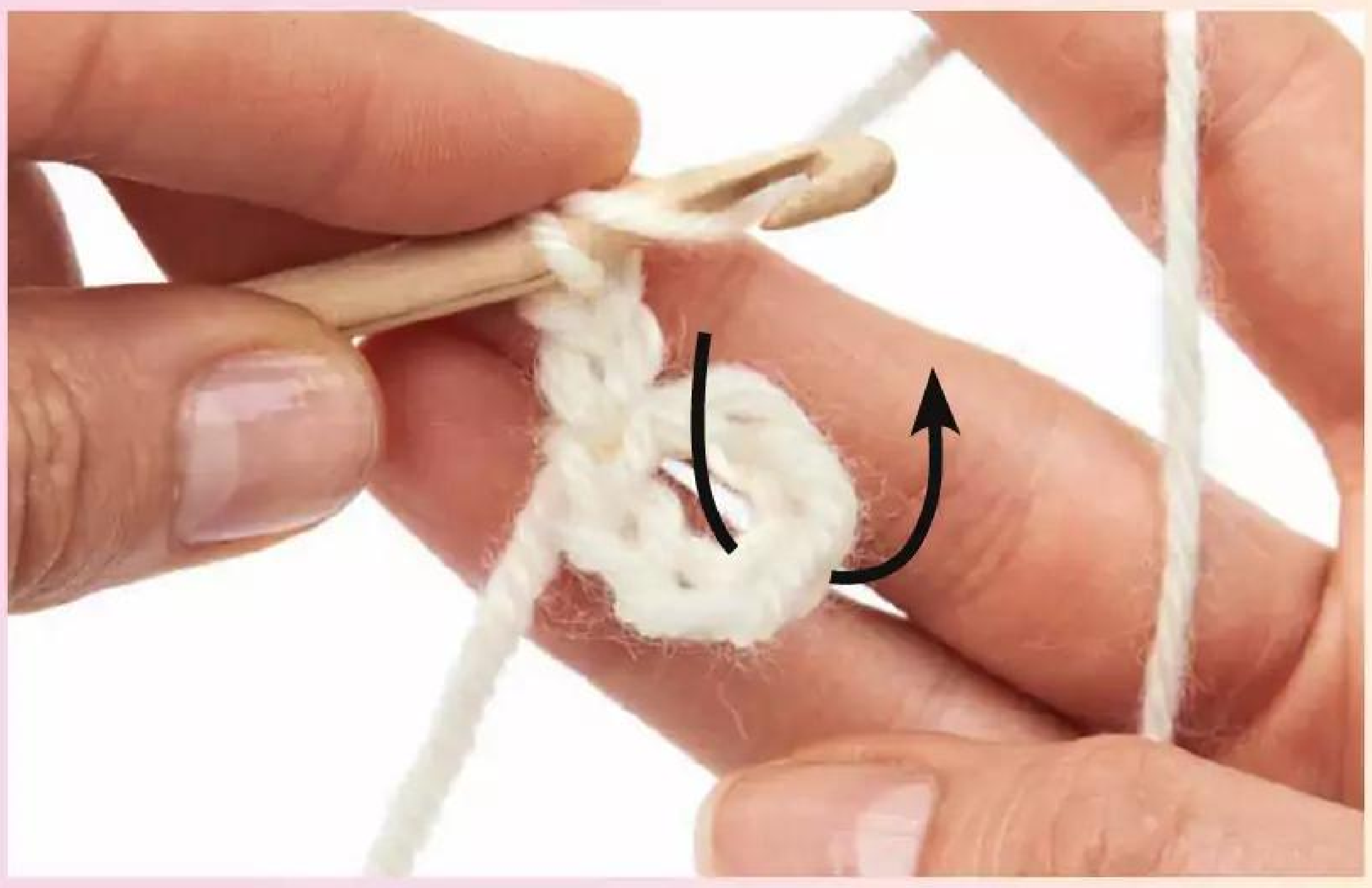
3 Work more treble crochet stitches in the same way (inserting hook into the centre of the ring), as instructed in your pattern, pushing the stitches closer if you need to.



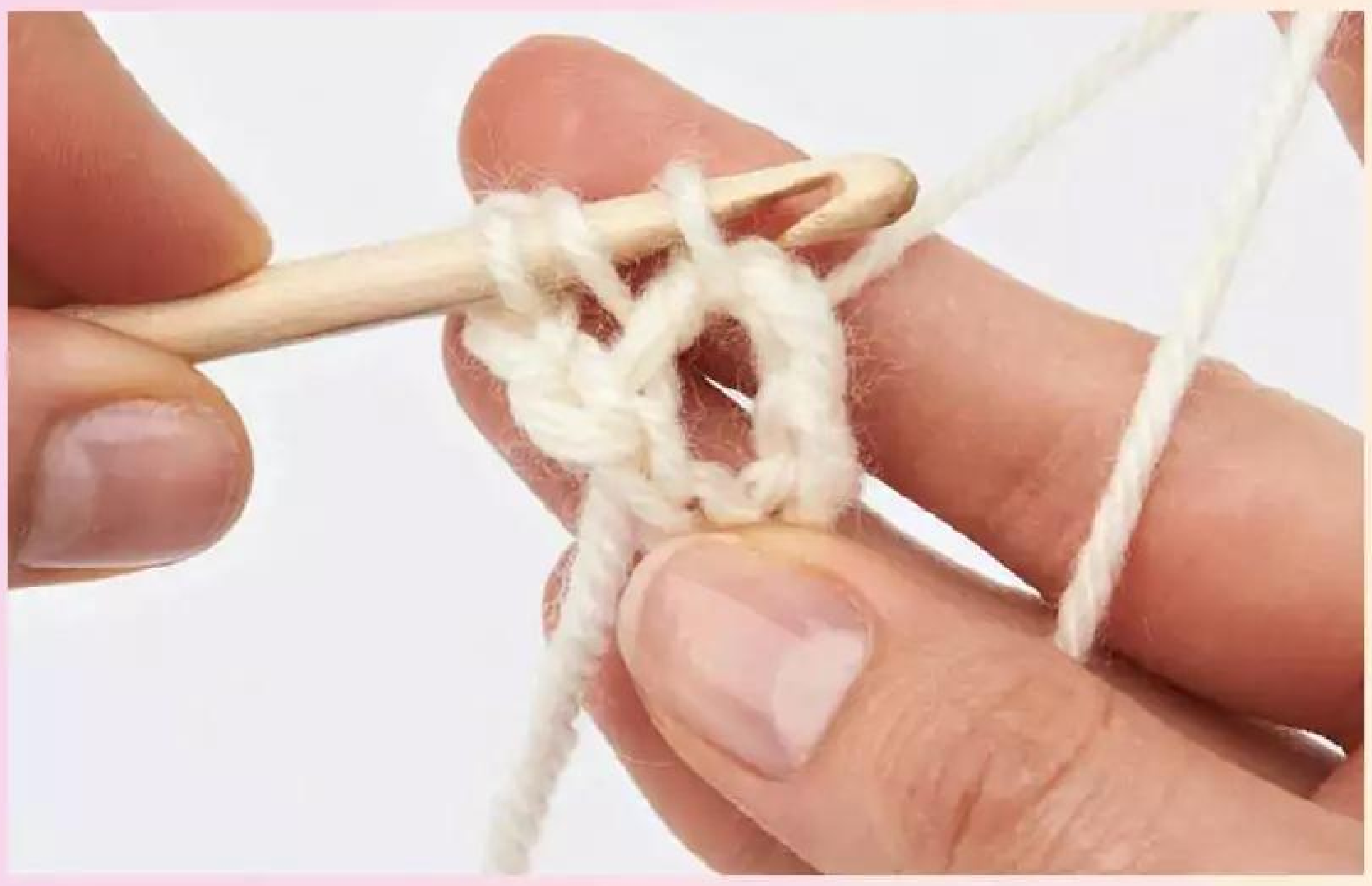
4 After the last stitch, insert hook into the top chain of the turning chain at the start of the round. Work a slip stitch (yrh, pull through both loops).

LEFT-HAND

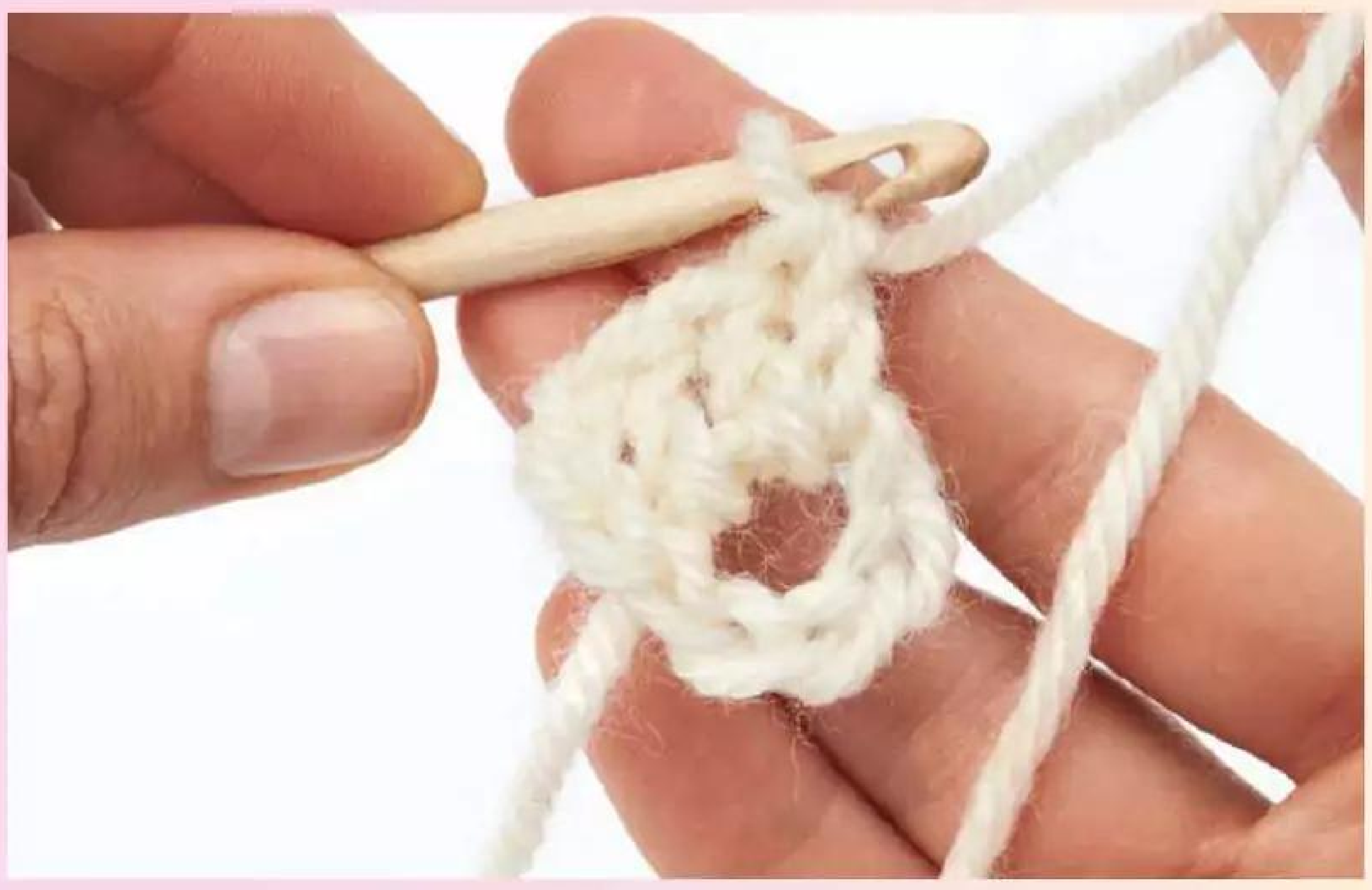
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to work the first round of treble crochet...



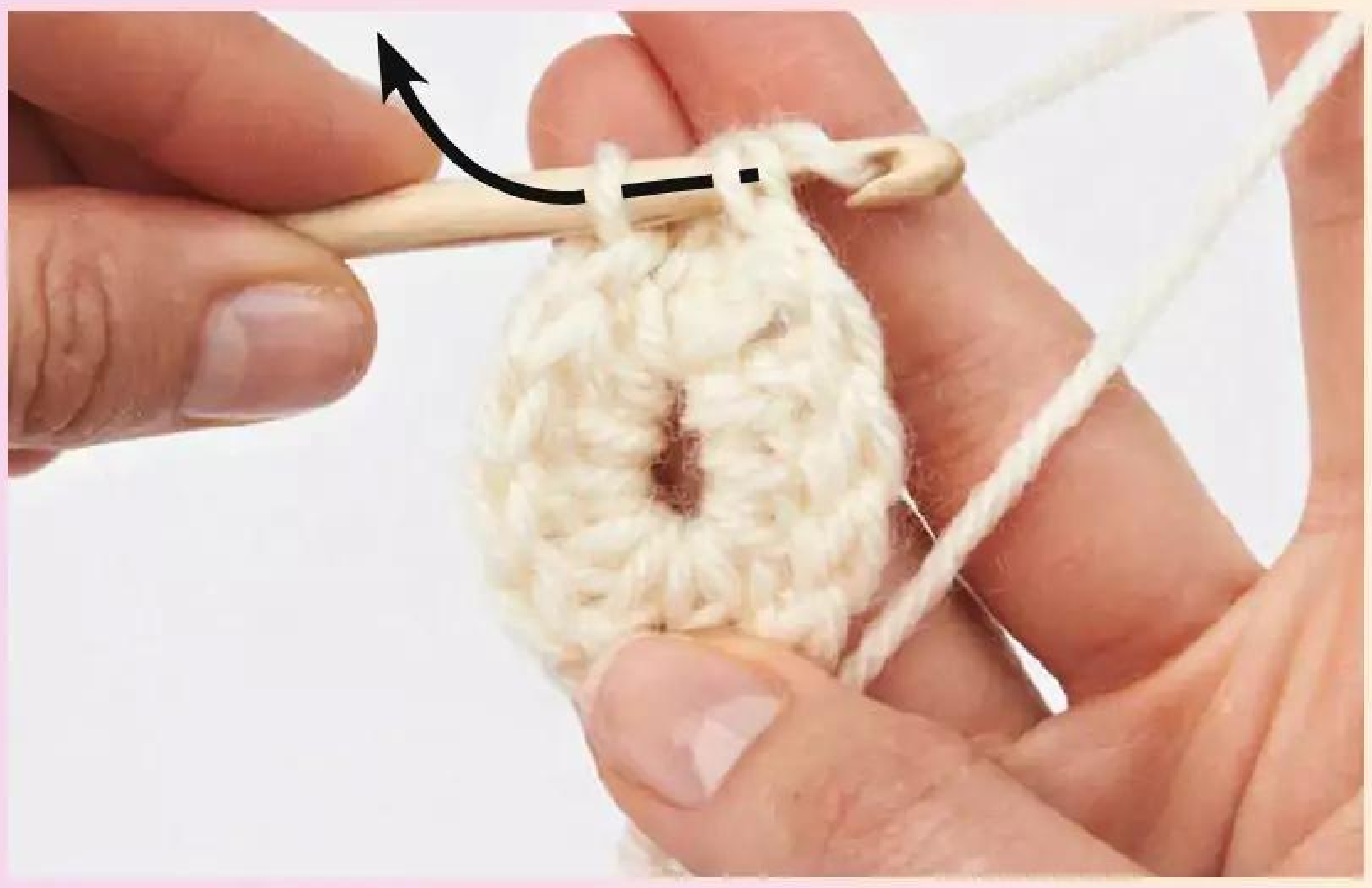
1 Make a basic foundation ring and don't turn the work. Make three turning chains for treble crochet (this counts as a stitch). To start your first treble crochet stitch, work yrh and insert hook into the centre of the ring.



2 Work yarn round hook and pull yarn through the centre of the foundation ring (three loops on hook). Finish the stitch as usual (yrh, pull through first two loops, yrh, pull through remaining two loops).



3 Work more treble crochet stitches in the same way (inserting hook into the centre of the ring), as instructed in your pattern, pushing the stitches closer if you need to.



4 After the last stitch, insert hook into the top chain of the turning chain at the start of the round. Work a slip stitch (yrh, pull through both loops).

HOW TO WORK MORE ROUNDS

Continue working in rounds to create interesting motifs

After the first round of treble stitches, your ring should look similar to this (see right). To work the second round and more rounds, make the turning chain (3ch for treble), then work the stitches into the tops of the stitches on the first round below, as you do in rows. To make flat shapes, like this flower (see far right), you'll be asked to increase stitches (more on this later). At the end of each round, join to the first stitch with a slip stitch.

CHAIN LOOP

Another method to start working in the round

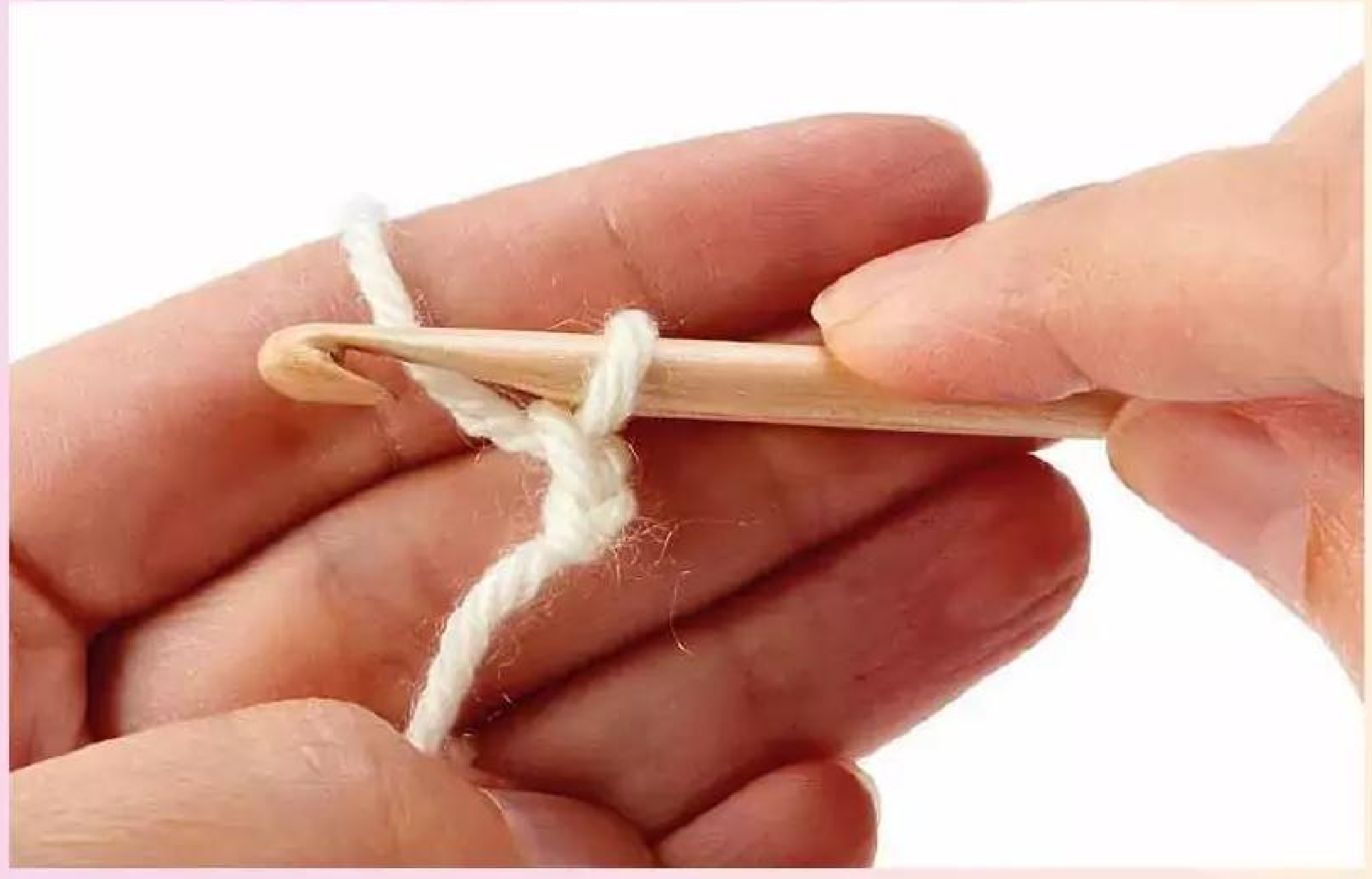
Most patterns worked in the round use the basic foundation ring method. But the chain loop method is a good alternative that you might prefer – we'll show you how to do it below. You might find it a little fiddly to start with, but once you get the hang of it, you'll find that it can be a quicker method to use than the basic ring.

The chain loop ring involves making just two chains and then working the first round of stitches into the first chain. Remember not to count the loop on the hook and don't mistake the slipknot for the first chain. When you work the first stitch into the chain loop, be careful not to twist the chain.

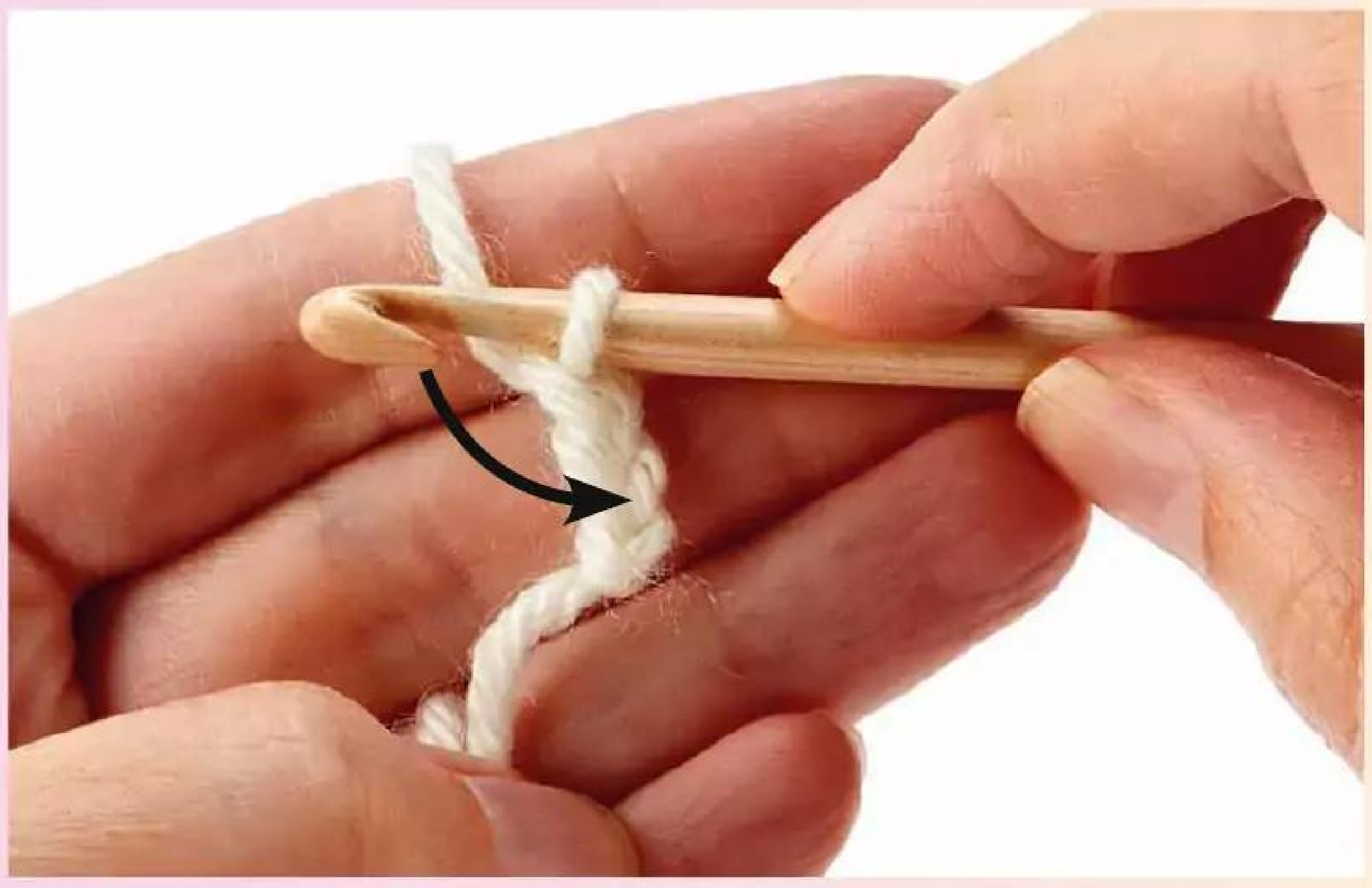
The finished chain loop ring has a much smaller hole at the centre than the basic ring, but the chain loop method is best used when you're only working a small number of stitches into the ring on the first round.

RIGHT-HAND

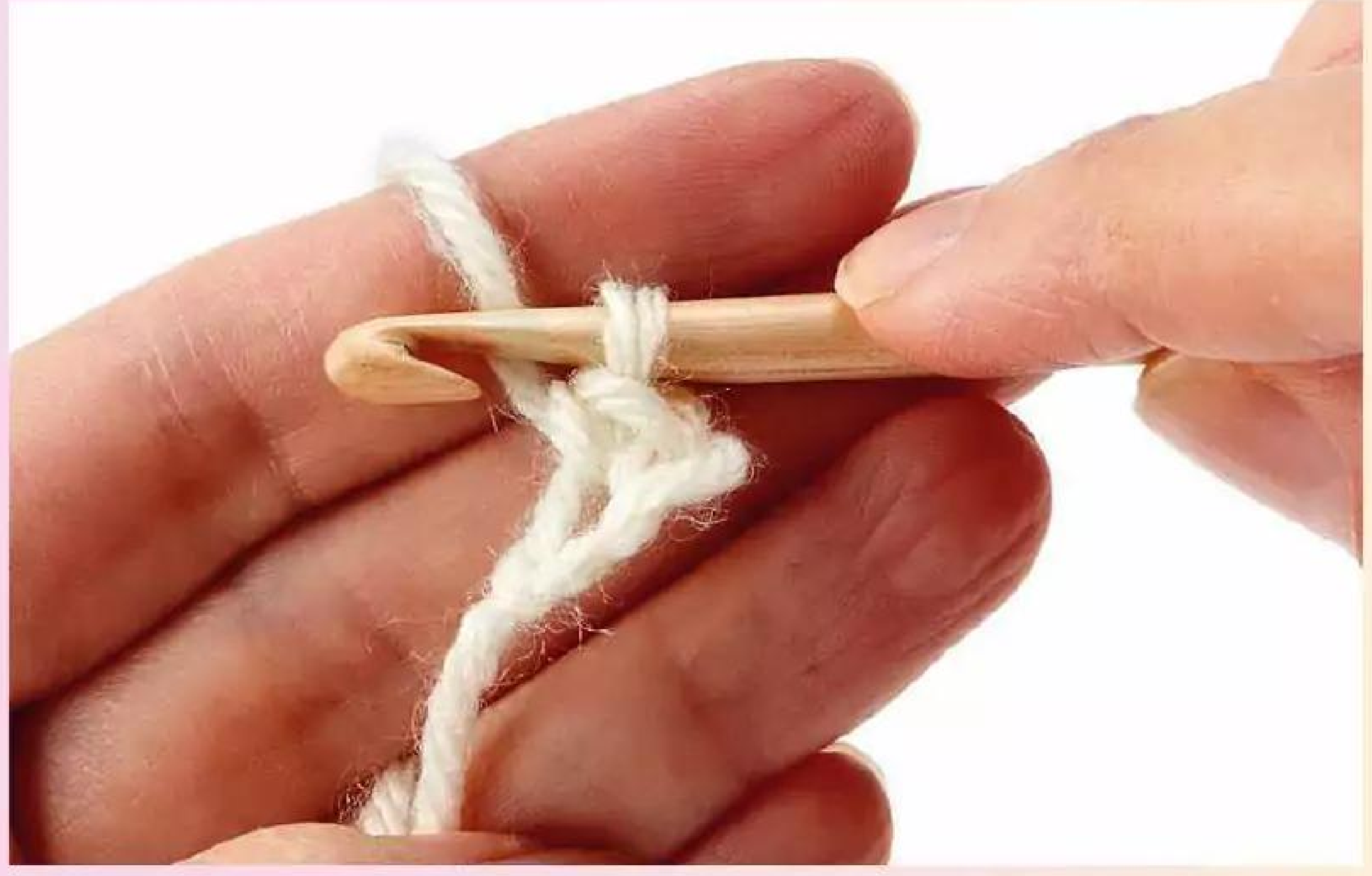
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to master the chain loop ring...



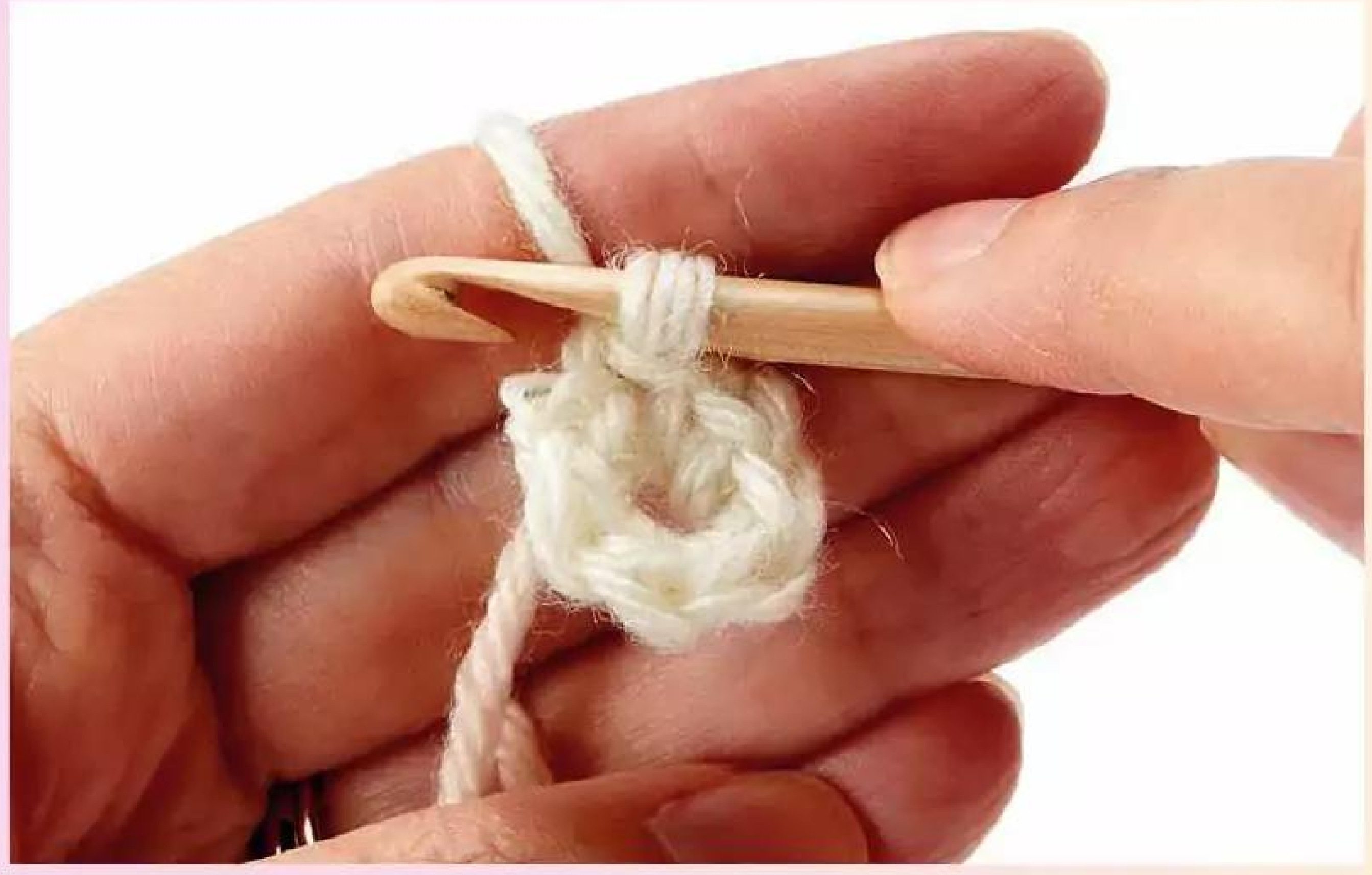
1 Make a slipknot and place it on your hook. Make one chain and tighten the slipknot. This first chain will be your foundation ring.



2 Make the turning chain for the stitches you want to work (above, we worked 1ch for double crochet). Now you can work your stitches into the first chain you made. For double crochet, insert hook, then...



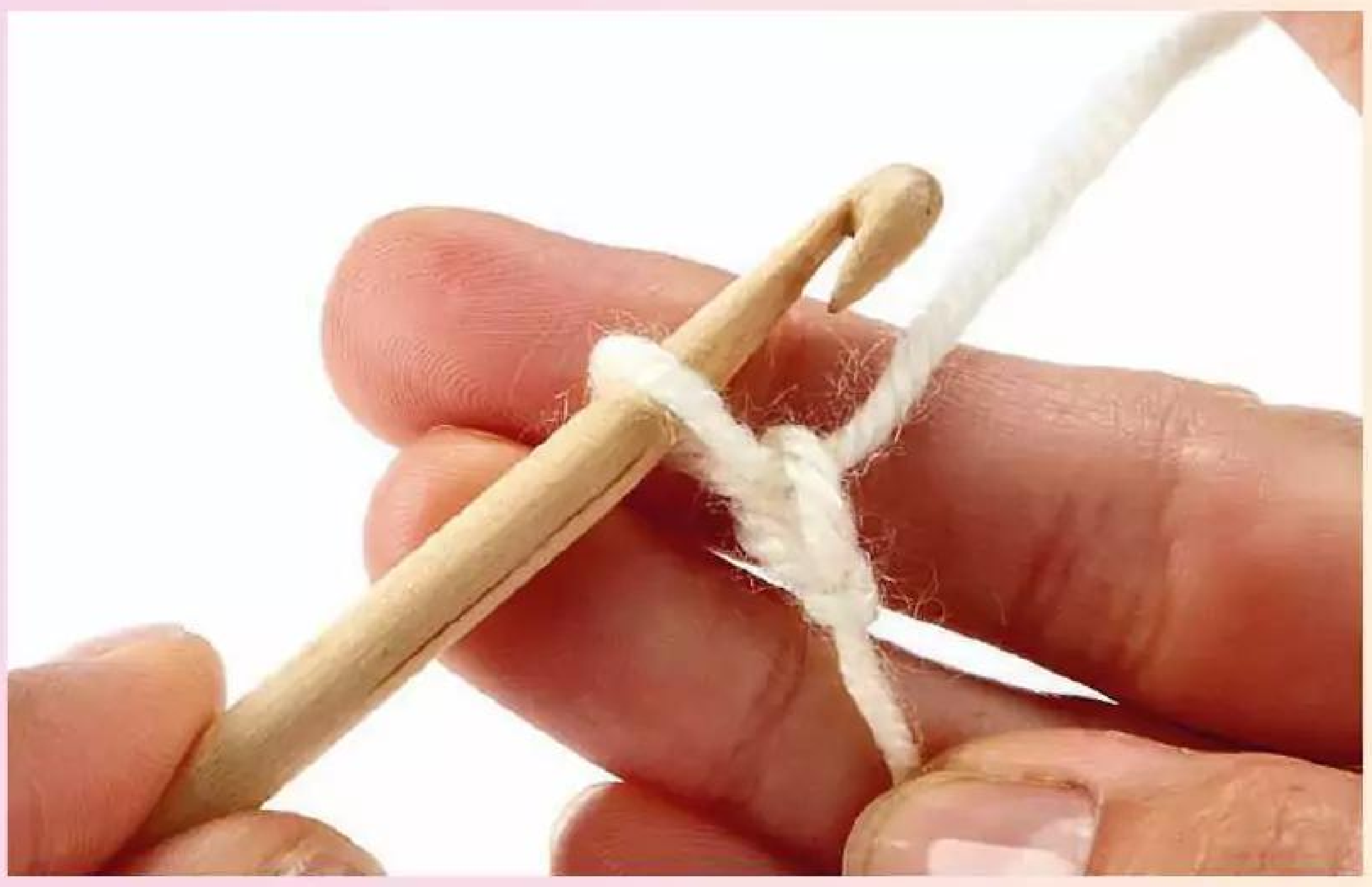
3 ...finish your first double crochet stitch by working yarn round hook, then pull a loop through. Yrh and pull the yarn loop through both loops on the hook.



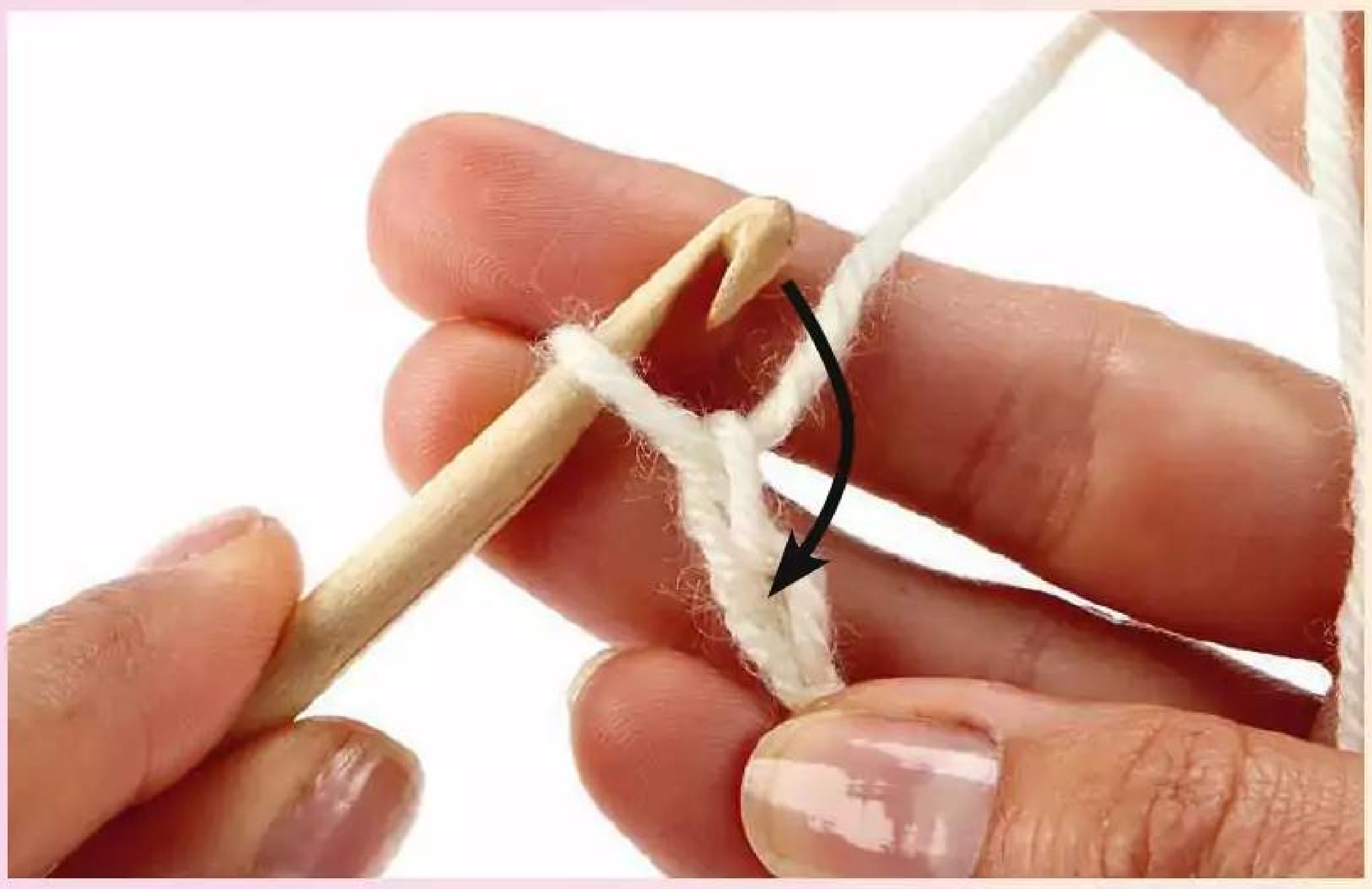
4 Work more stitches into the chain loop, although only 4-6 stitches will fit. Work a slip stitch to join the first and last double crochet stitches and finish the first round.

LEFT-HAND

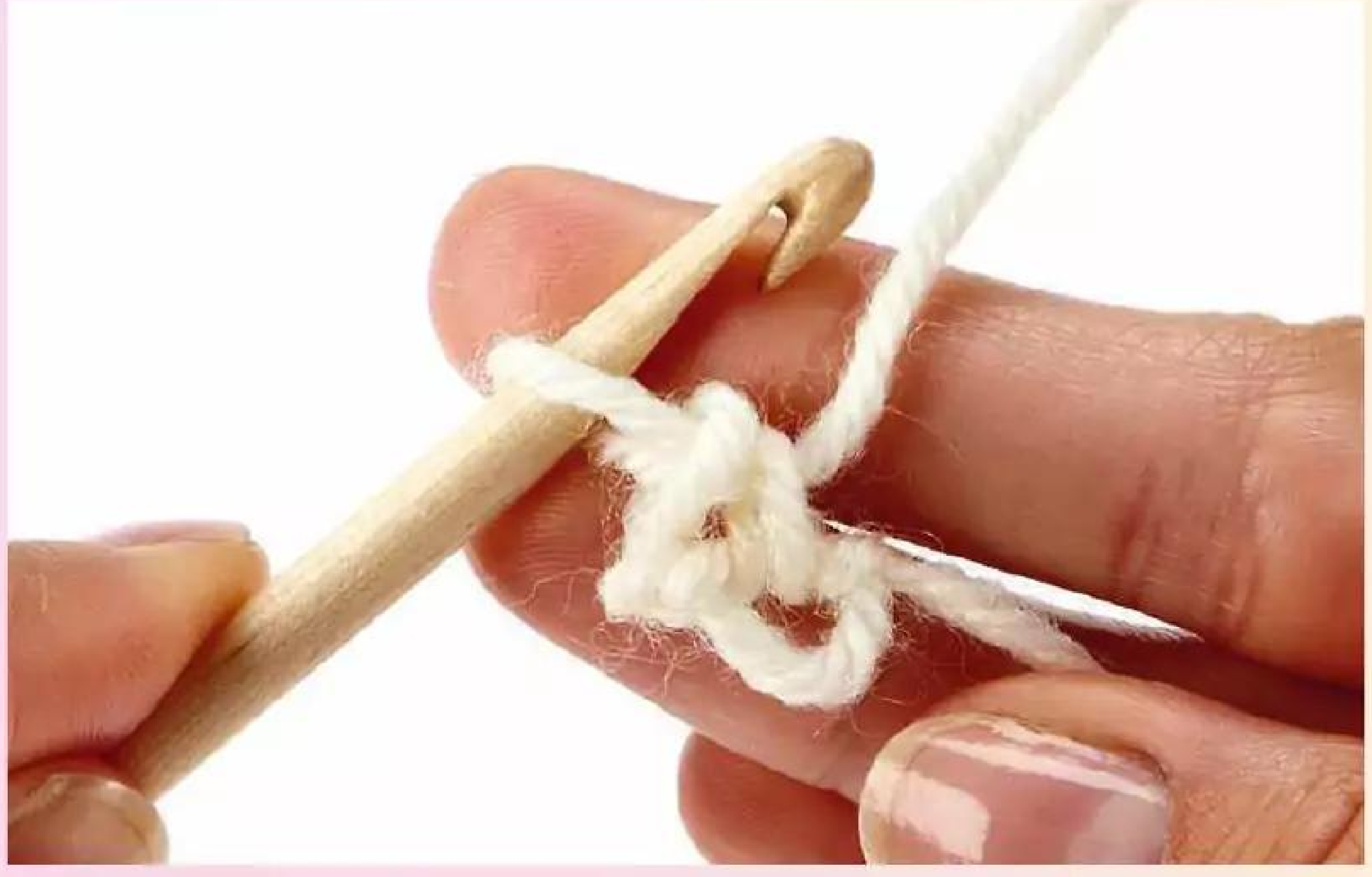
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to master the chain loop ring...



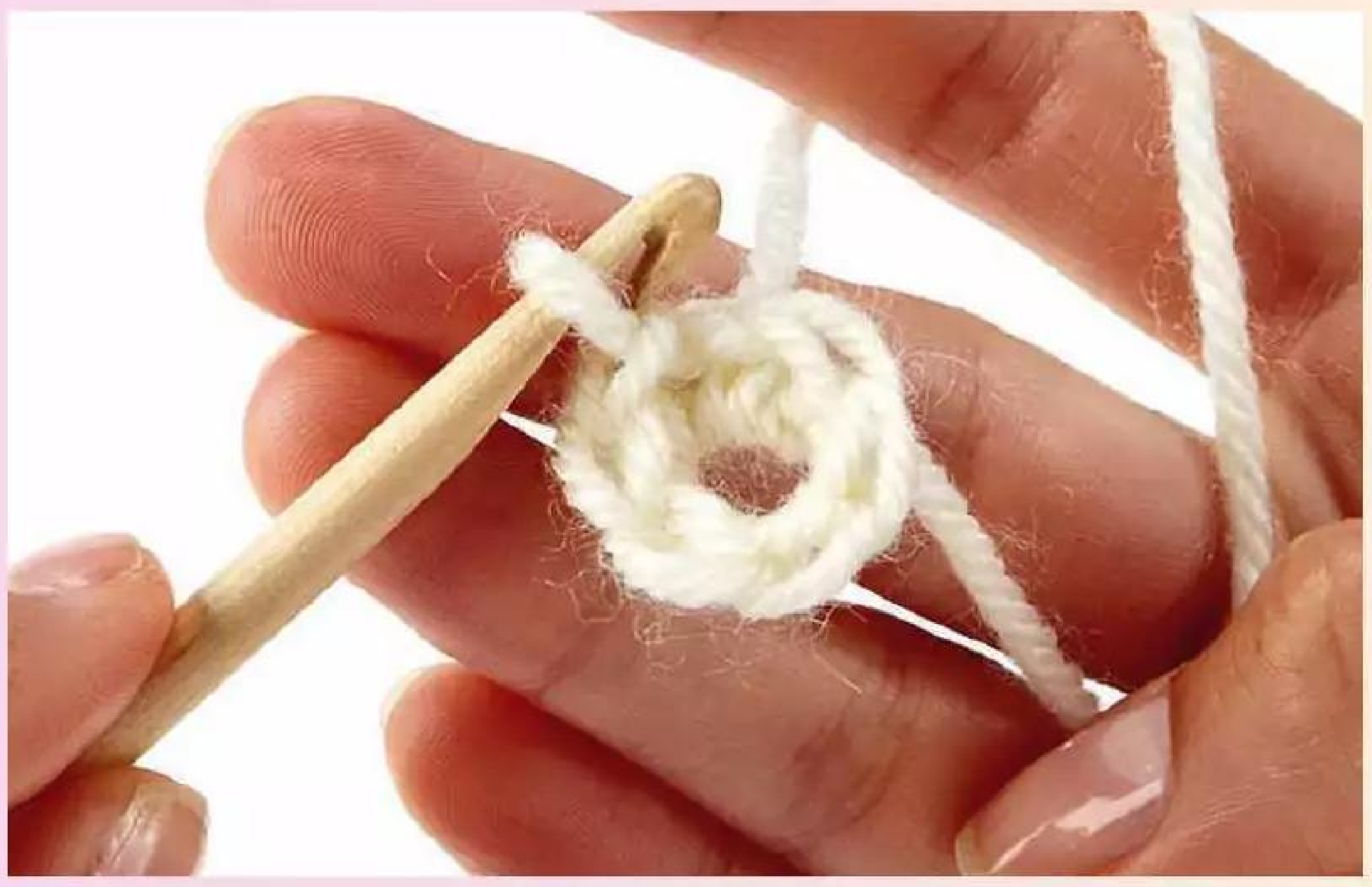
1 Make a slipknot and place it on your hook. Make one chain and tighten the slipknot. This first chain will be your foundation ring.



2 Make the turning chain for the stitches you want to work (above, we worked 1ch for double crochet). Now you can work your stitches into the first chain you made. For double crochet, insert hook, then...



3 ...finish your first double crochet stitch by working yarn round hook, then pull a loop through. Yrh and pull the yarn loop through both loops on the hook.

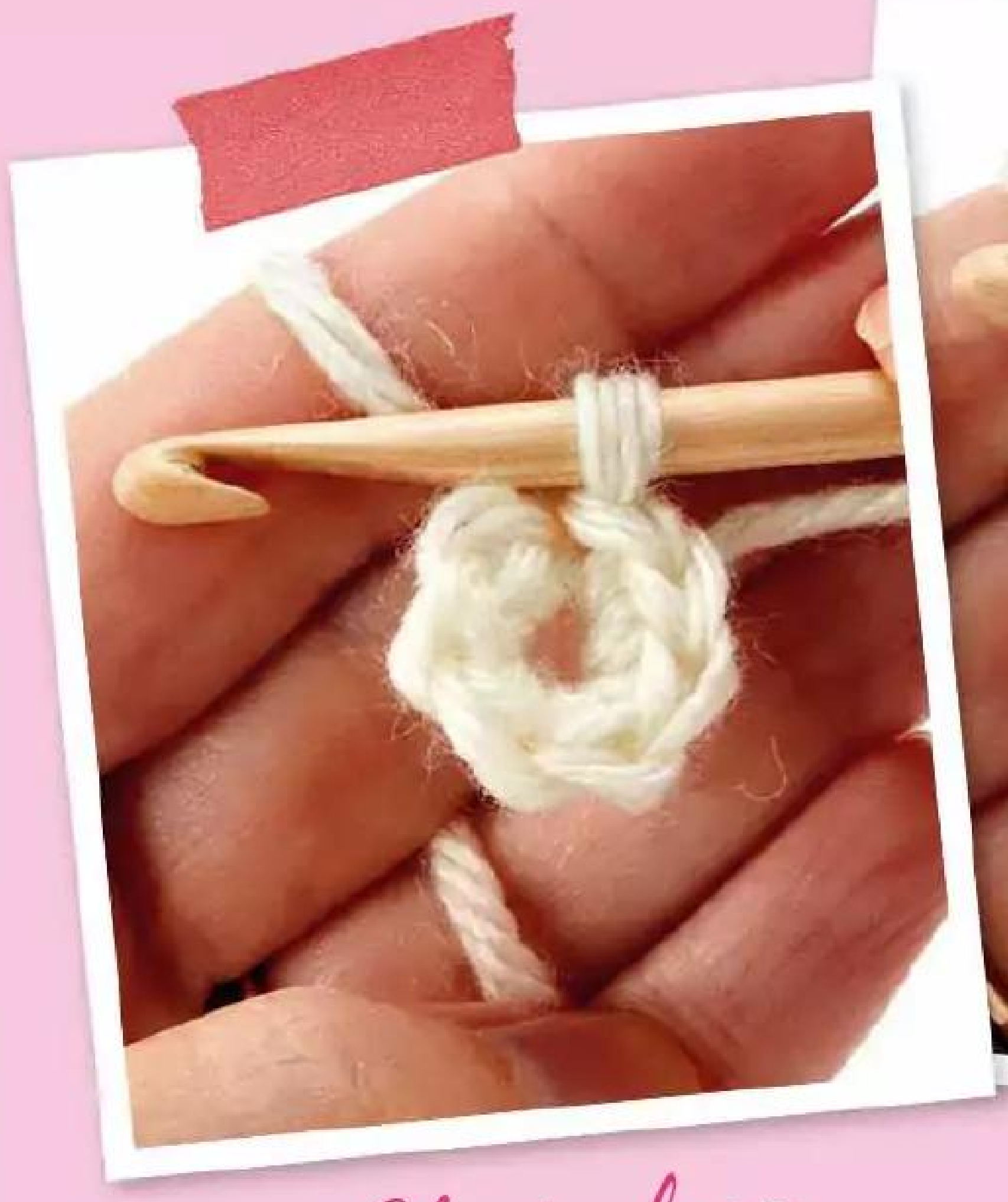


4 Work more stitches into the chain loop, although only 4-6 stitches will fit. Work a slip stitch to join the first and last double crochet stitches and finish the first round.

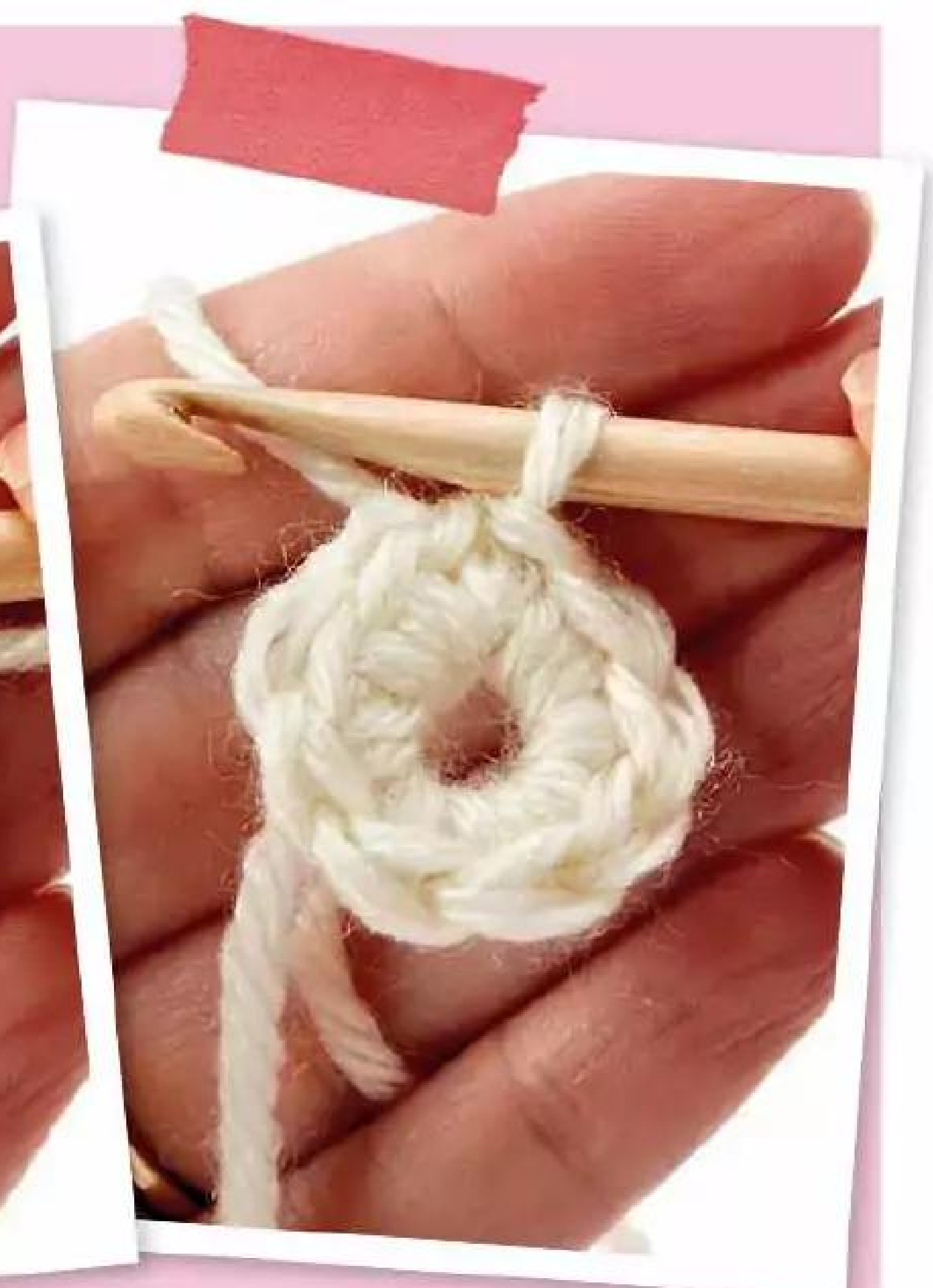
HOW TO WORK MORE ROUNDS

Here's how to work the next round and more rounds to make various shapes

After the first round of double crochet stitches, your chain loop ring should look like this (see right). You can see that this method leaves a smaller hole at the centre than the basic foundation ring method (see far right). To work the next round(s), work in the same way as you would with the next rounds for the basic foundation ring: make the turning chain, then work the stitches into the tops of the stitches on the first round. At the end of each round, slip stitch the last stitch to the first stitch.



Chain loop



Basic ring

MAGIC LOOP

Another popular method to start working in the round

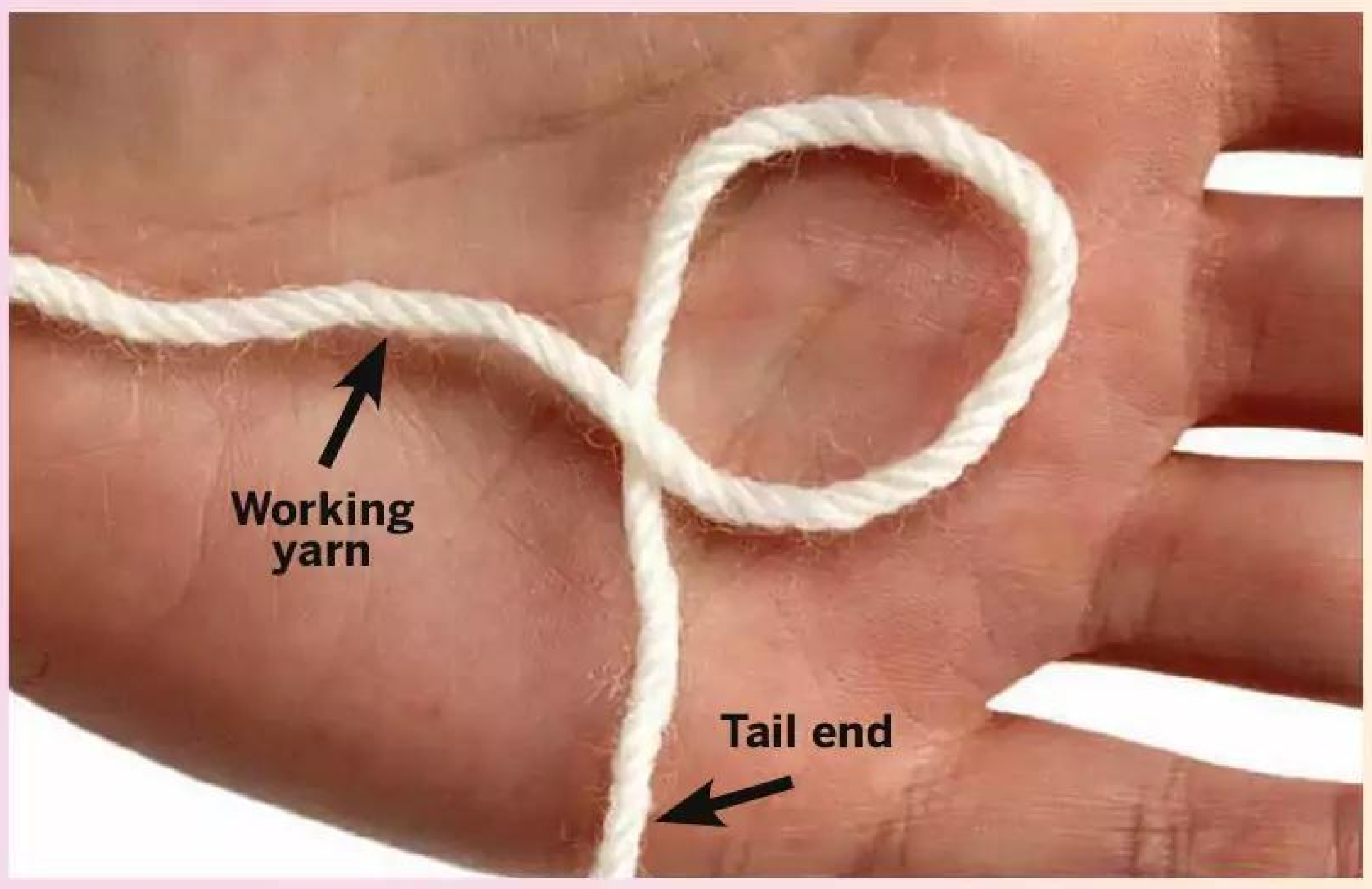
The magic loop method is another way to start working in the round. It's particularly popular for making toys – we'll show you how to do it below. You might need to practise it a few times to get the hang of it, but you'll soon learn to love it!

The magic loop method (also called the drawstring loop) involves making a simple loop of yarn and then working your first round of stitches into that loop. You don't need to make a slipknot with this method and you can work as many stitches into the ring on the first round as you need to. After working the last stitch of the first round, you simply pull on the tail end of the yarn to tighten the loop, as if by magic!

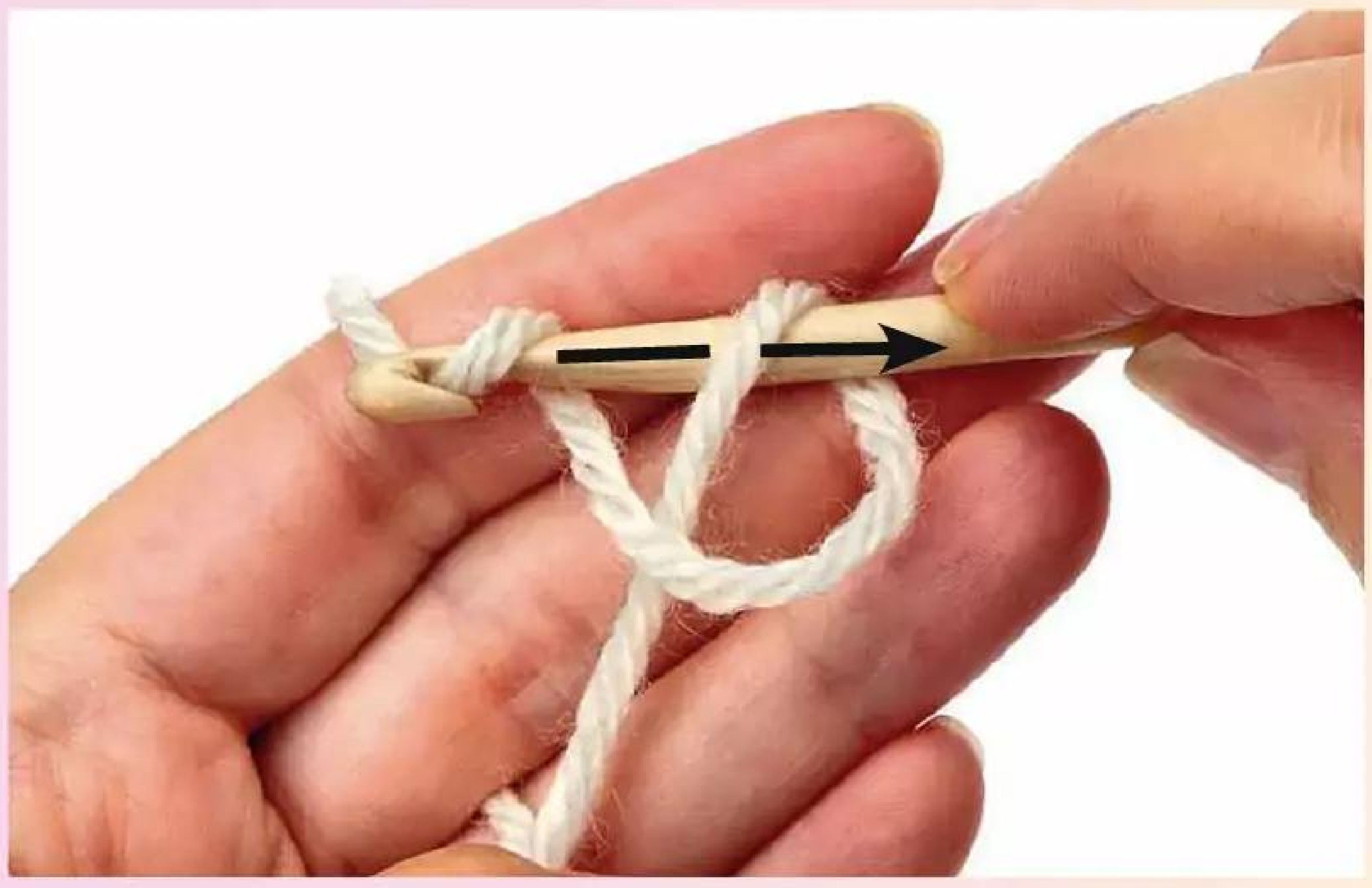
The finished magic loop ring will have virtually no hole at the centre, which is very useful for projects like stuffed toys (and amigurumi, see p114) where you don't want stuffing to poke out of any gaps.

RIGHT-HAND

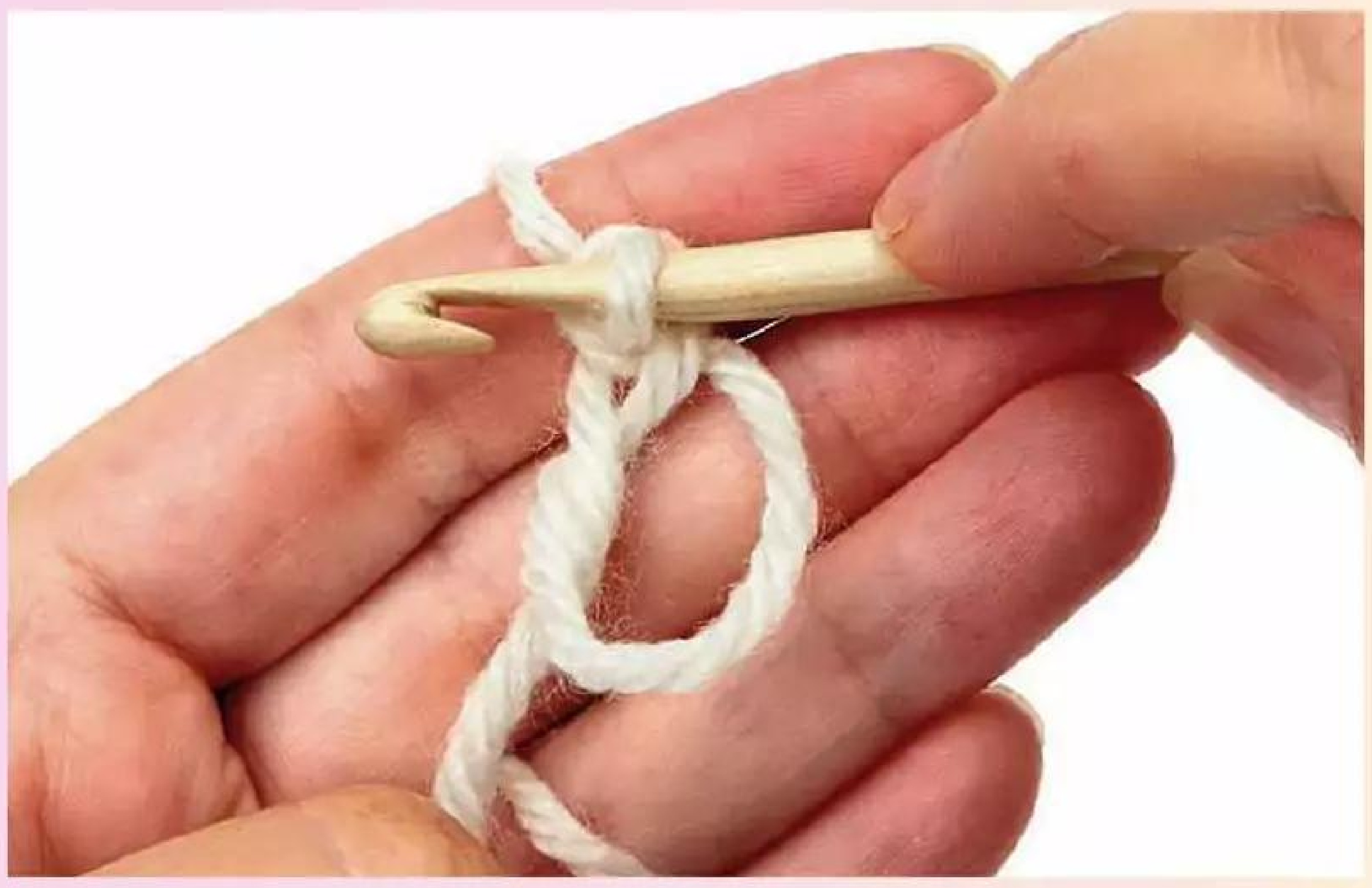
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to master the magic loop...



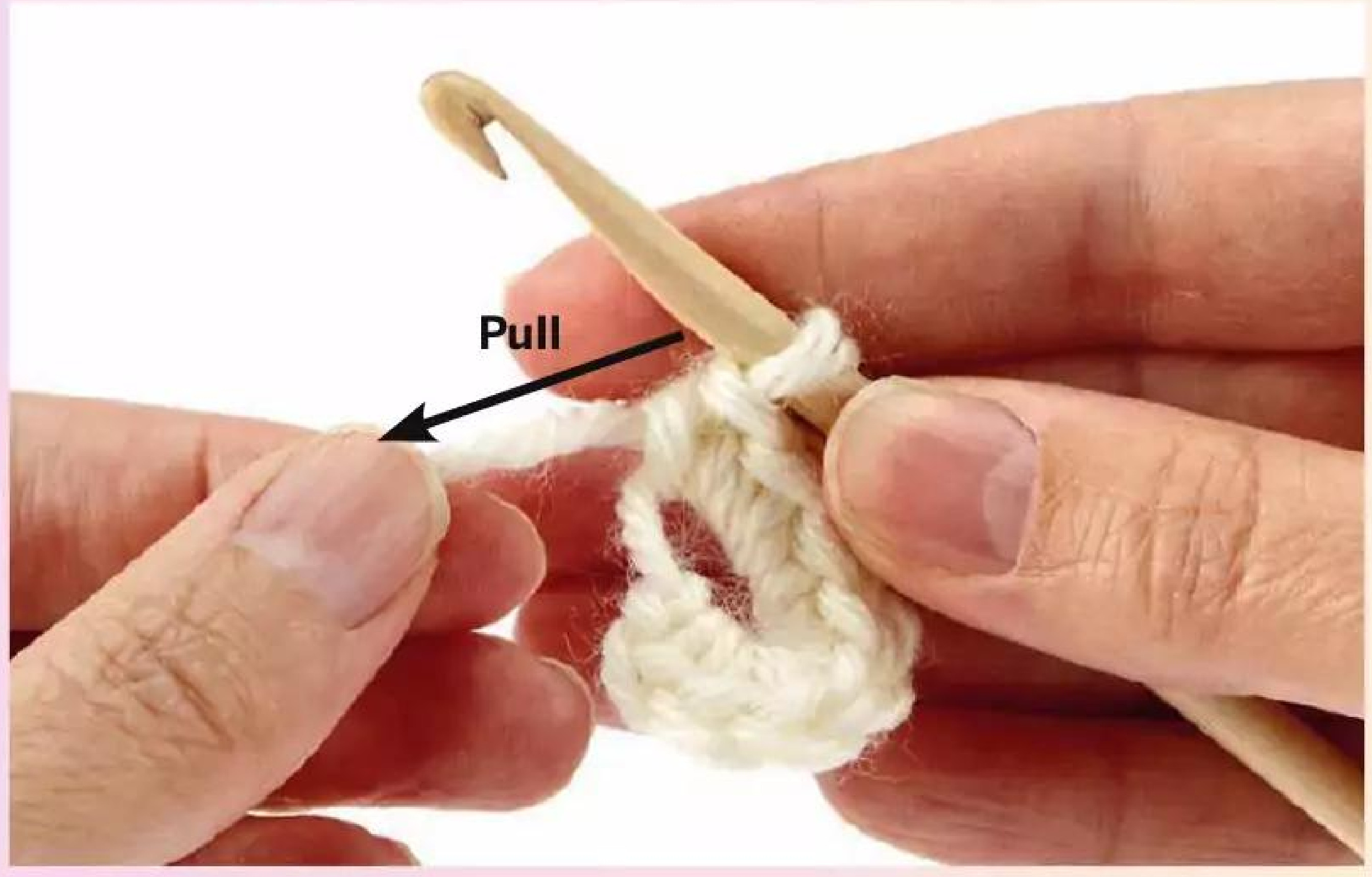
1 To start a magic loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end of yarn lies underneath the strand of working yarn.



2 Now insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook anticlockwise and pull the yarn through the magic loop.



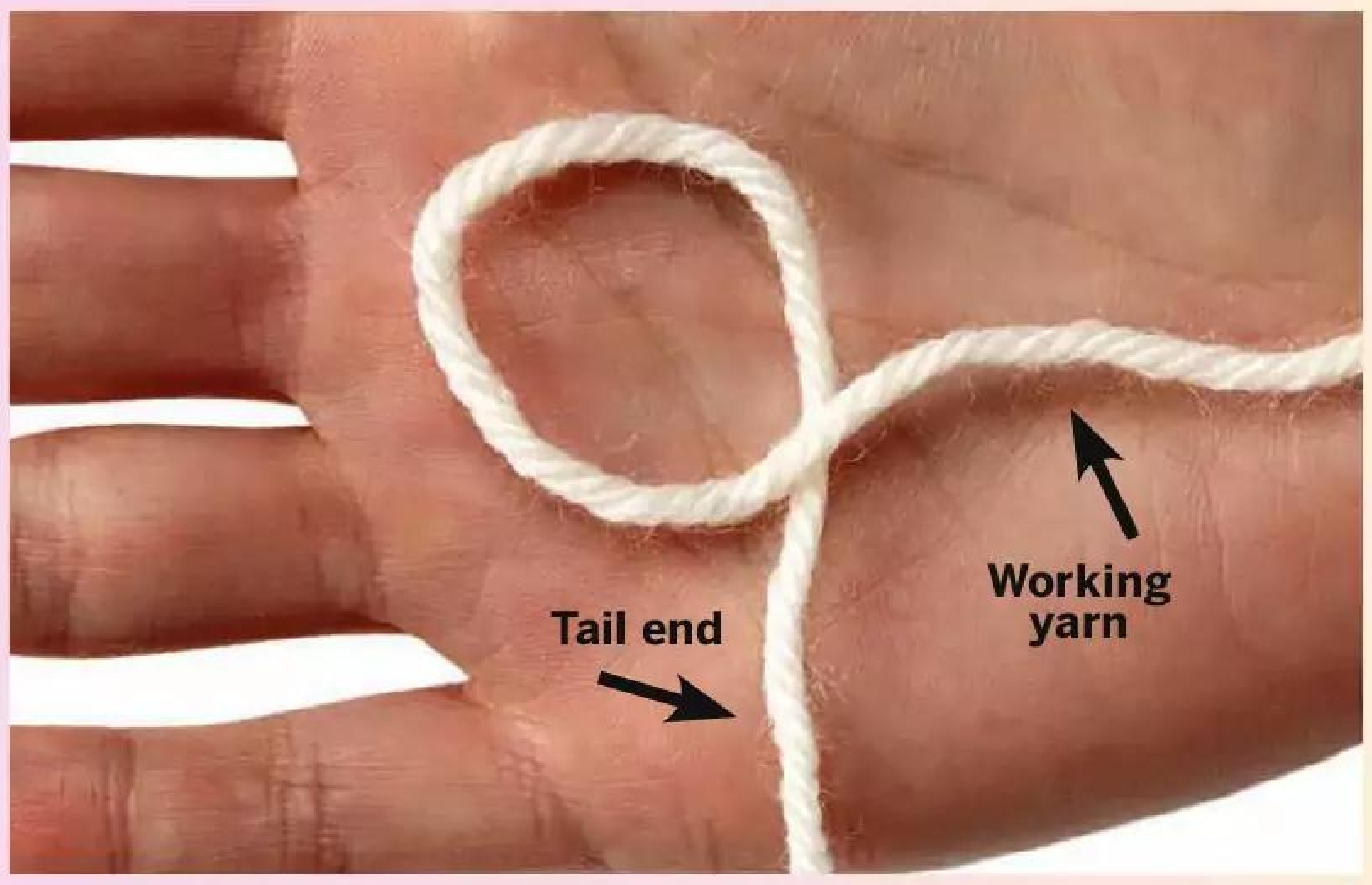
3 Make the turning chain (above, we made one turning chain, ready for dc stitches). Work the stitches into the loop, making sure they are all worked over both the loop itself and the tail end (so two strands of yarn).



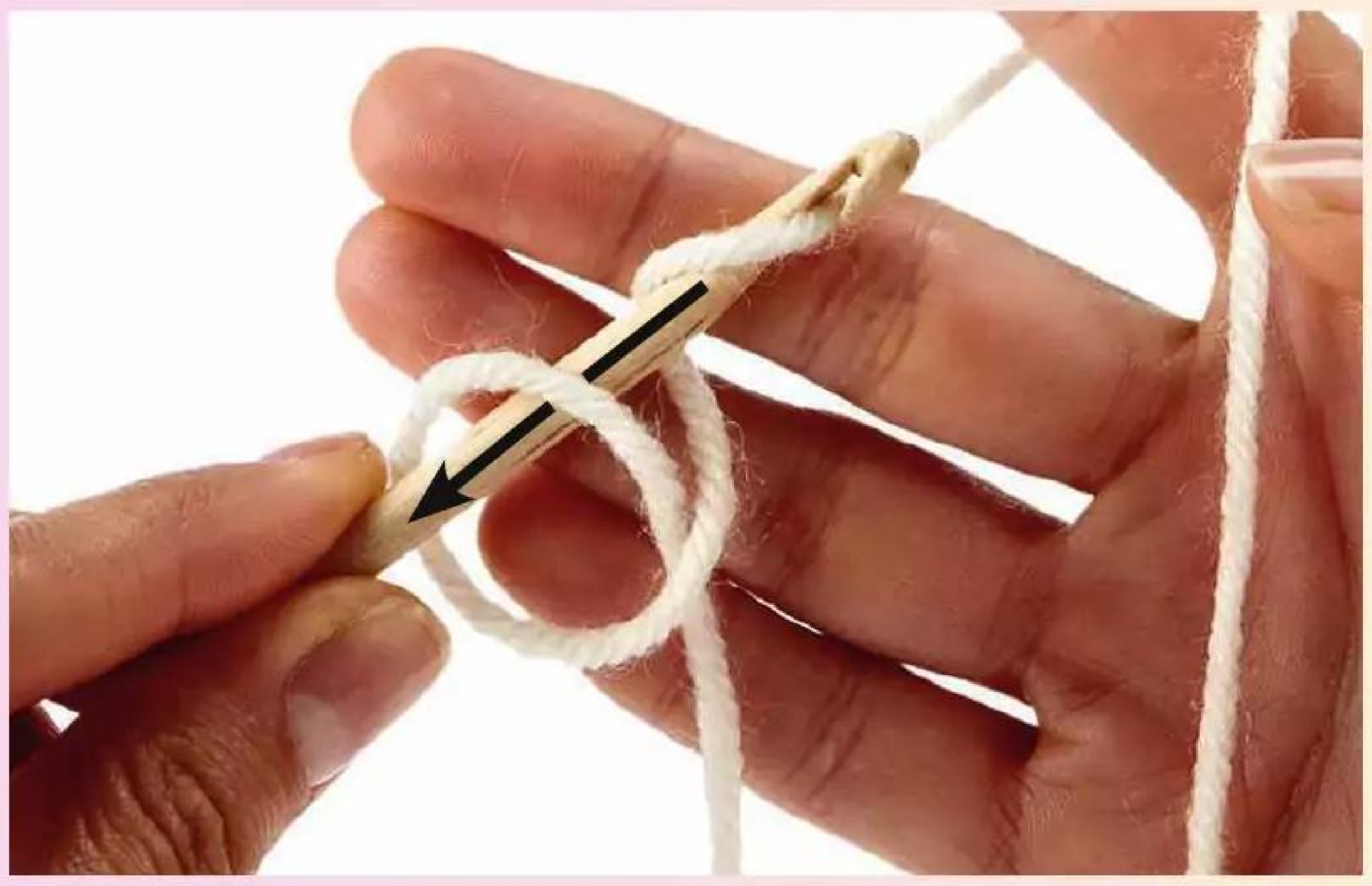
4 Once you've worked the number of stitches you need, pull on the tail end of the yarn to draw up the ring – magic! Close the round with a slip stitch as usual.

LEFT-HAND

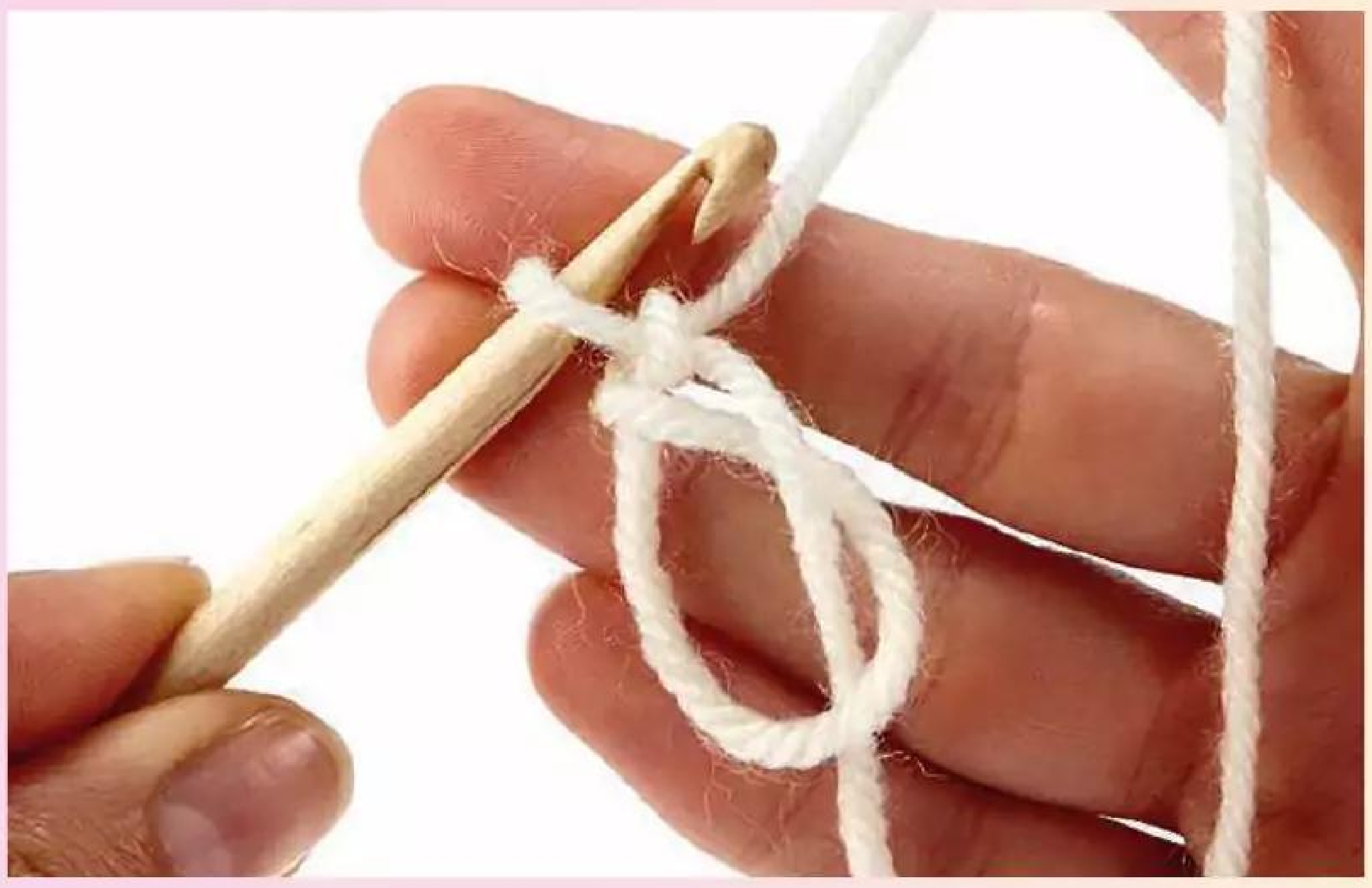
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to master the magic loop…



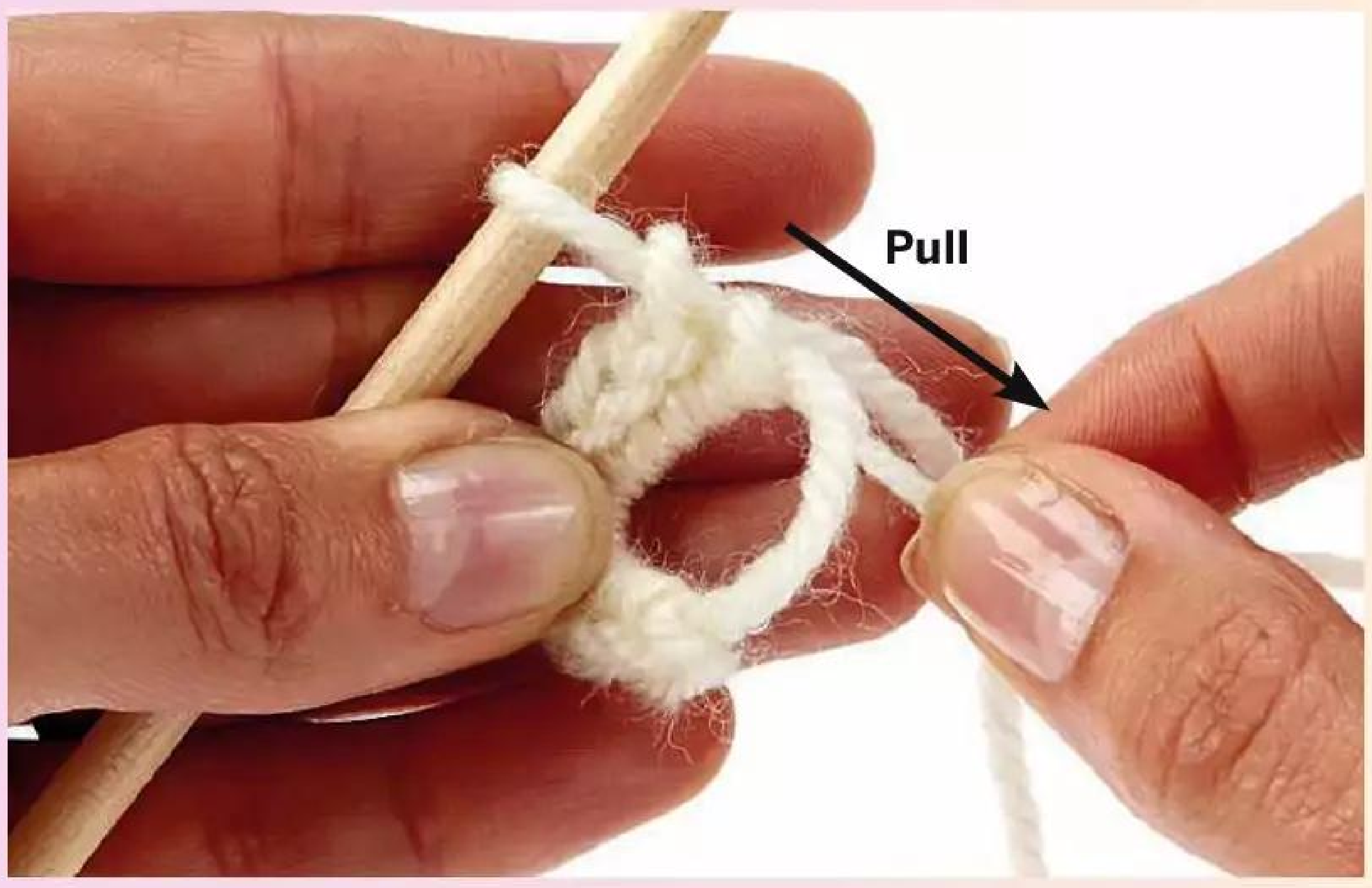
1 To start a magic loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end of yarn lies underneath the strand of working yarn.



2 Now insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook clockwise and pull the yarn through the magic loop.



3 Make the turning chain (above, we made one turning chain, ready for dc stitches). Work the stitches into the loop, making sure they are all worked over both the loop itself and the tail end (so two strands of yarn).

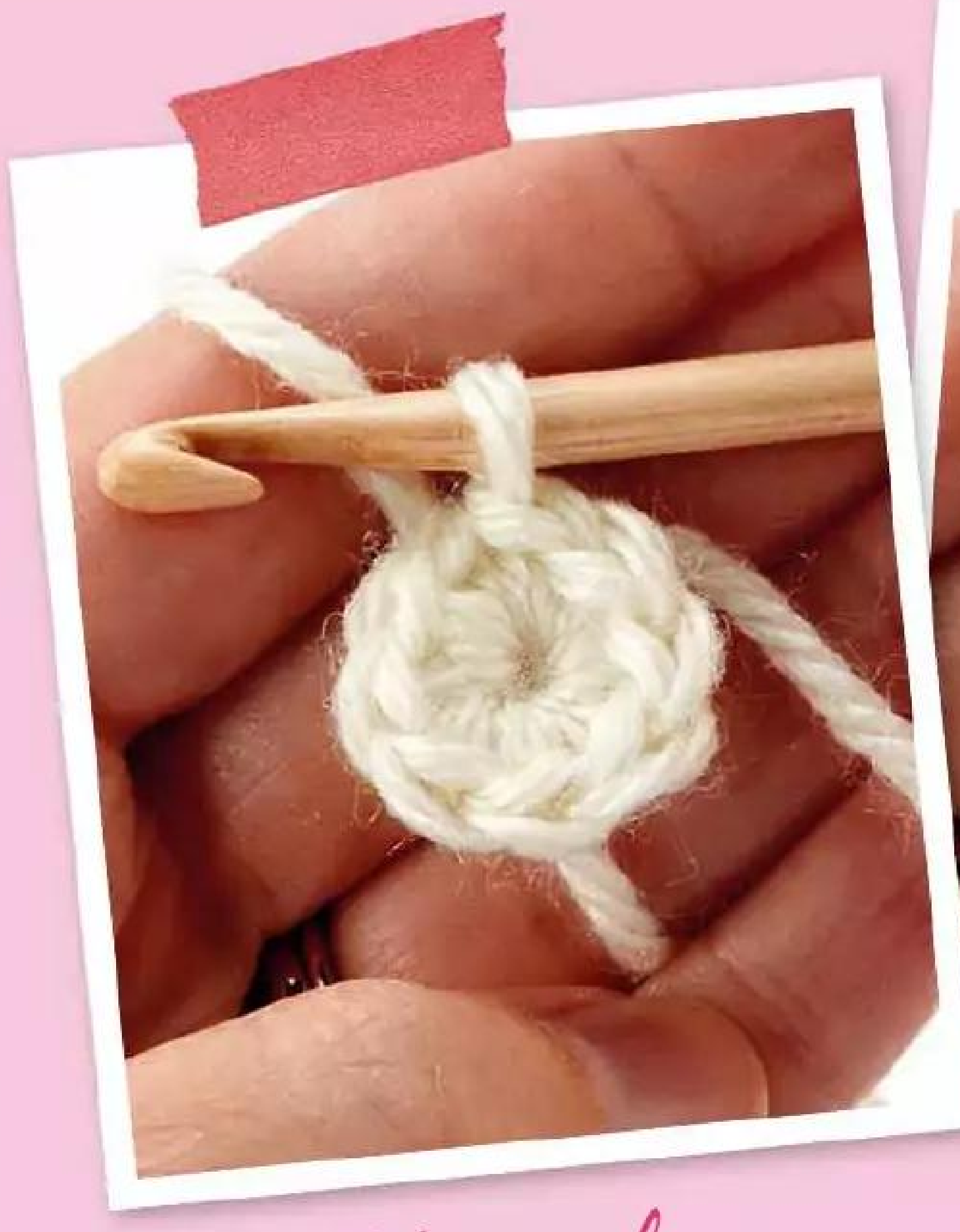


4 Once you've worked the number of stitches you need, pull on the tail end of the yarn to draw up the ring – magic! Close the round with a slip stitch as usual.

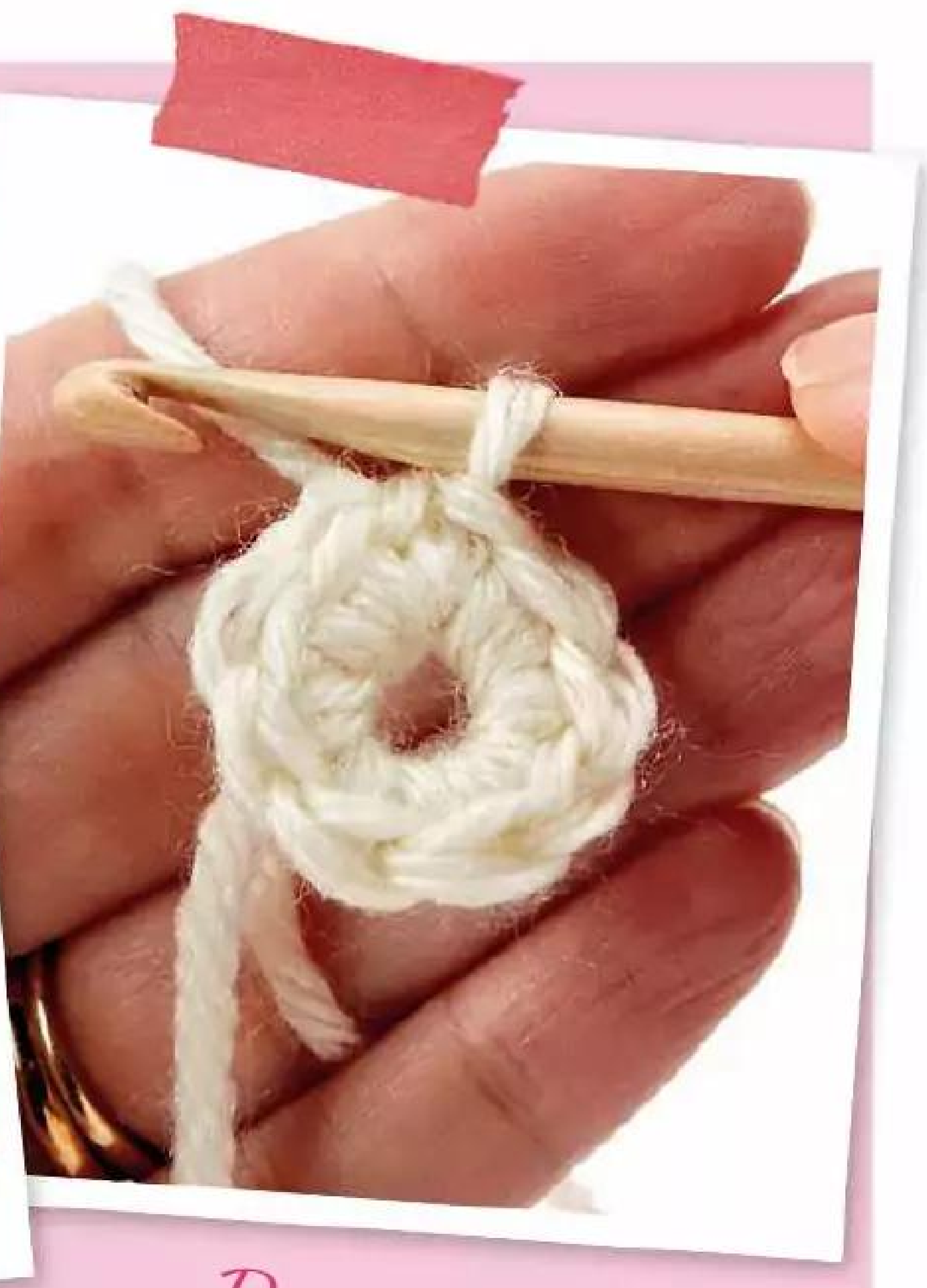
HOW TO WORK MORE ROUNDS

Here's how to work the next rounds to make all sorts of shapes

After the first round of double crochet stitches, your magic loop should look like this (see right). You can see that this method leaves no hole at the centre, compared to the basic foundation ring method (see far right). To work the next round(s), work in the same way as you would with the next rounds for the basic ring: make the turning chain, then work stitches into the tops of the stitches on the first round. At the end of each round, slip stitch the last stitch to the first stitch.



Magic loop



Basic ring

FORGET-ME-KNOT CARD

Say a big thank you with tiny crocheted flowers and pretty paper. Designed by **Lara Messer**

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- DMC Petra 5 (100% cotton, 100g/280m), 1 ball of each: blue (54518) and yellow (5745)

HOOK

- A 2mm (US 4 steel) hook

NOTIONS

- Tapestry needle
- A6 cream card blank and envelope
- Bone folder
- Paper trimmer
- Floral scrapbook paper measuring 9.5x14cm
- Glue gun
- Typewriter (or use American Typewriter/Courier New computer font on your computer)
- Pink pearlescent card
- Sharp craft scissors
- Adhesive foam squares
- Roll-on adhesive

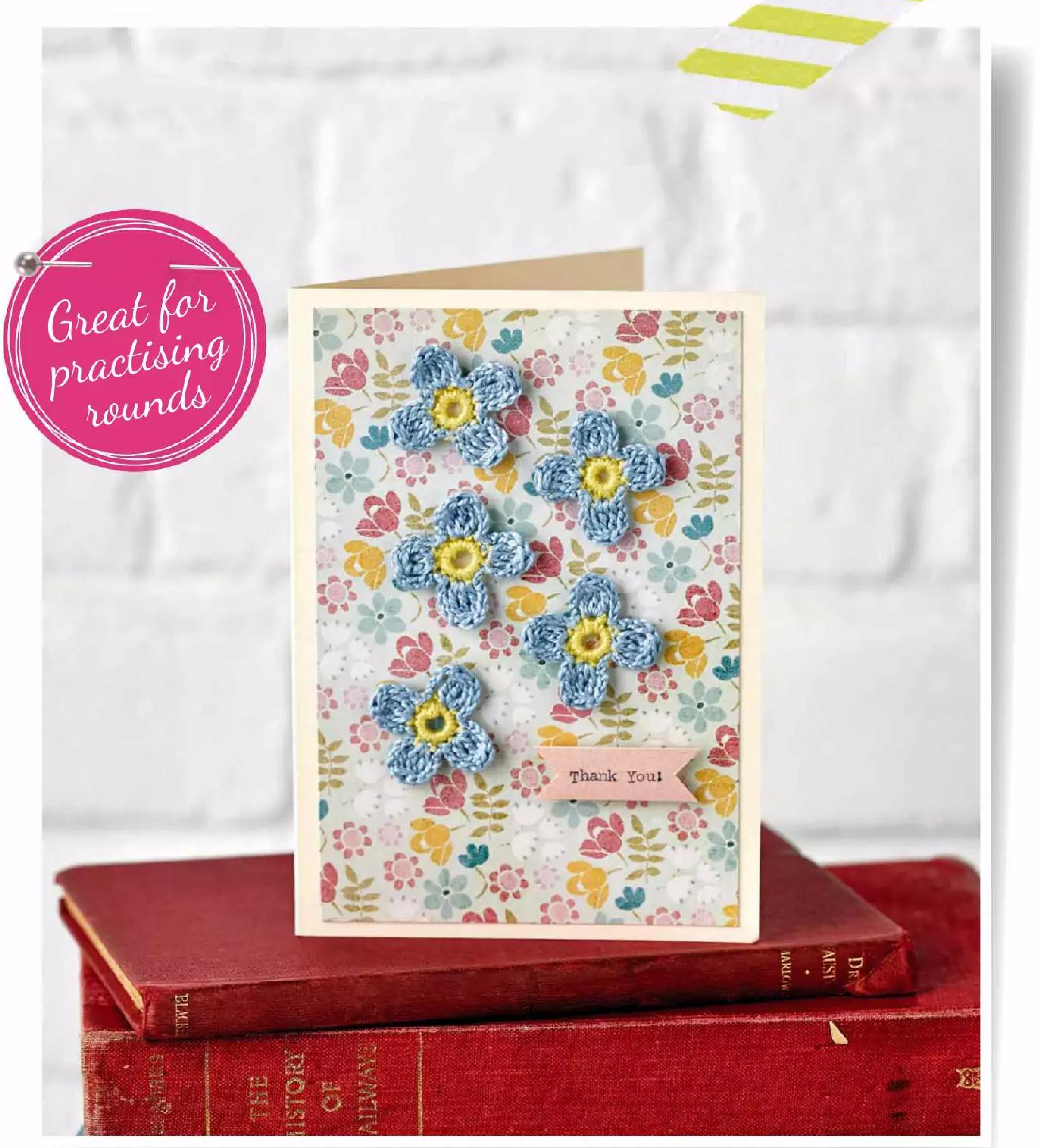
TENSION AND SIZE

Tension is not critical for this project. Each flower meas 3cm (1in) diam

ABBREVIATIONS

3-dtr cluster (Yrh twice, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, [yrh and draw through 2 loops] twice) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

For a full list see page 18



Great for practising rounds

The simple, four-petal forget-me-nots are worked in two rounds – you'll make a pretty flower in no time!

FORGET-ME-NOT FLOWER (MAKE 5)

With yellow, ch5, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 12dc into ring, ss to first dc.

Fasten off. [12 sts]

Round 2 Join blue in any st, (ch4, 3-dtr cluster in next st, ch4, ss into each of next 2 sts) 4 times, omitting last ss on final rep.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO ASSEMBLE

Fold A6 card blank in half with the bone folder. Trim floral paper to 9.5x14cm and apply adhesive to edges of reverse side. Centre and position on front of card blank. Arrange the flowers on card and use a hot glue gun to adhere each in place – with hot glue, apply 4 small balls of glue around the inner ring (too much will seep through).

Once flowers are in place, type up your 'thank you' sentiment. Whether printing or using a typewriter, trim your sentiment into a rectangle with space at both ends. Cut out a triangle at both ends to represent a banner. Attach 3 foam squares to the back and stick to your card.

CROCHET WITH COLOUR

There's a rainbow of different coloured yarns out there, so get inspired and give your crochet a whole new dimension with simple colour effects, from stripes to coloured edgings

ALL ABOUT... COLOUR

Using different colours of yarn is part of the fun of crochet. With many colourwork techniques on offer, you can experiment with all sorts of effects. **Becky Skuse** explains more...

There are many different ways to work with colour, ranging from simple stripes to more intricate patterns. The effects often look amazing, but they're actually quite straightforward to create.

Stripes are the easiest way to introduce different colours to your crochet and they're one of the most popular effects. You simply introduce a new colour at the end of a row, ready to work the new row with the new colour. That doesn't mean stripes are boring though – you can work your stripes as narrow or wide as you like, combine stripes of different widths, and use many different colours, to create a range of looks you'll see on the high street.

You can also achieve amazing effects by working stripes in the round. Using different colours in this way will form concentric patterns and tie-dye effects. Or you can try changing the stitches you use with rows of different yarn colours – think wavy stripes, or dense and lacy stripes. Experiment and see what you can come up with!

The technique used to change row colours can also be used to change the colour of individual stitches. With a bit of practice, you can use these techniques to create more complex colour effects, often called tapestry or jacquard crochet, crochet intarsia or Fair Isle crochet. These can seem quite daunting, but they just build on the same techniques you'll learn in this chapter.

Generally, intarsia refers to blocks of colour within a background of a different colour (such as a red heart on the front of a grey jumper), while Fair Isle, tapestry and jacquard tend to use two or three colours held at the front or back of the work and used across every row to create intricate, geometric designs. There are various crochet books , YouTube tutorials and websites dedicated to these techniques once you're ready to progress your crochet to this next stage.

THE RUNDOWN

IT LOOKS COMPLICATED...

...but it's not. There are a lot of crochet techniques that seem impossible at first, but with a little practice, you'll find that they're much simpler than you thought. This is definitely true with colourwork. Working stripes is just as easy as working any large project that needs more than one ball of yarn, such as a long scarf. The only difference is the colour of your yarn!

CHOOSING COLOURS

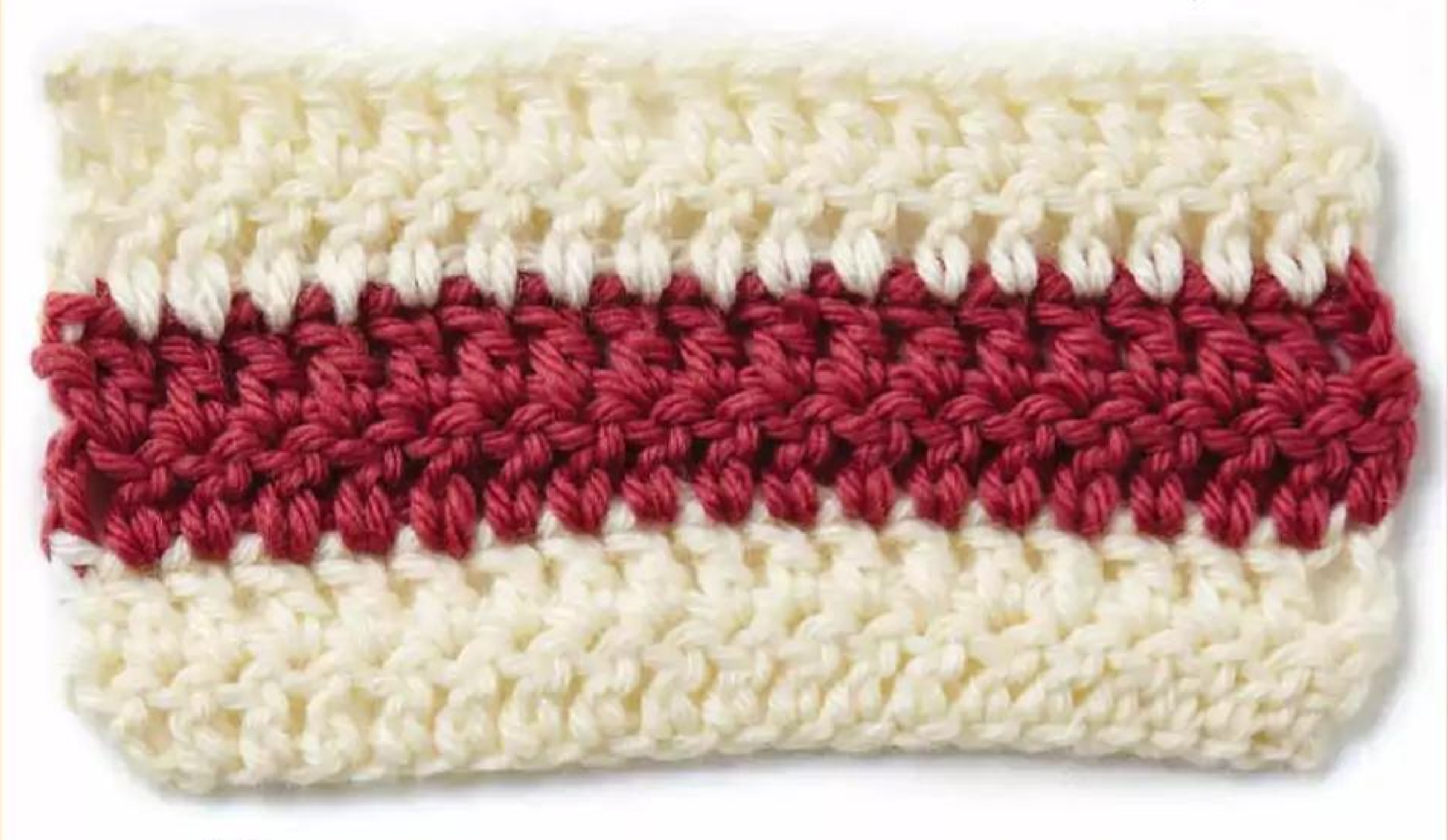
When you're working with different colours, it's important to choose shades that work well together. The safest bet with colour choices is to use two shades of the same hue, such as dark blue and light blue yarns. For a more interesting effect, try using a colour wheel. Choose colours that sit opposite each other, such as red and green,

COLOUR ROWS

Making stripes is easy

SIMPLE STRIPES

Working rows of different colours will create simple stripe effects like this – a classic look that suits many different projects. In crochet, you always switch yarn colour at the end of a row, ready to work the new row in the new colour. We'll show you how overleaf. On a large project, you can also use the same technique to join a new ball of the same yarn colour, when one ball runs out.



WIDE OR NARROW

Make your stripes as wide as you want them to be – experiment by crocheting a 2-row repeat, a 4-row repeat, a 6-row repeat, and so on. You can also play with combining different widths of stripes, mixing a 2-row stripe with a 6-row stripe, and so on. You don't have to stick to two colours either, try using three or four different colours to see what effects you can create. Be inspired by striped effects you like from the high street.

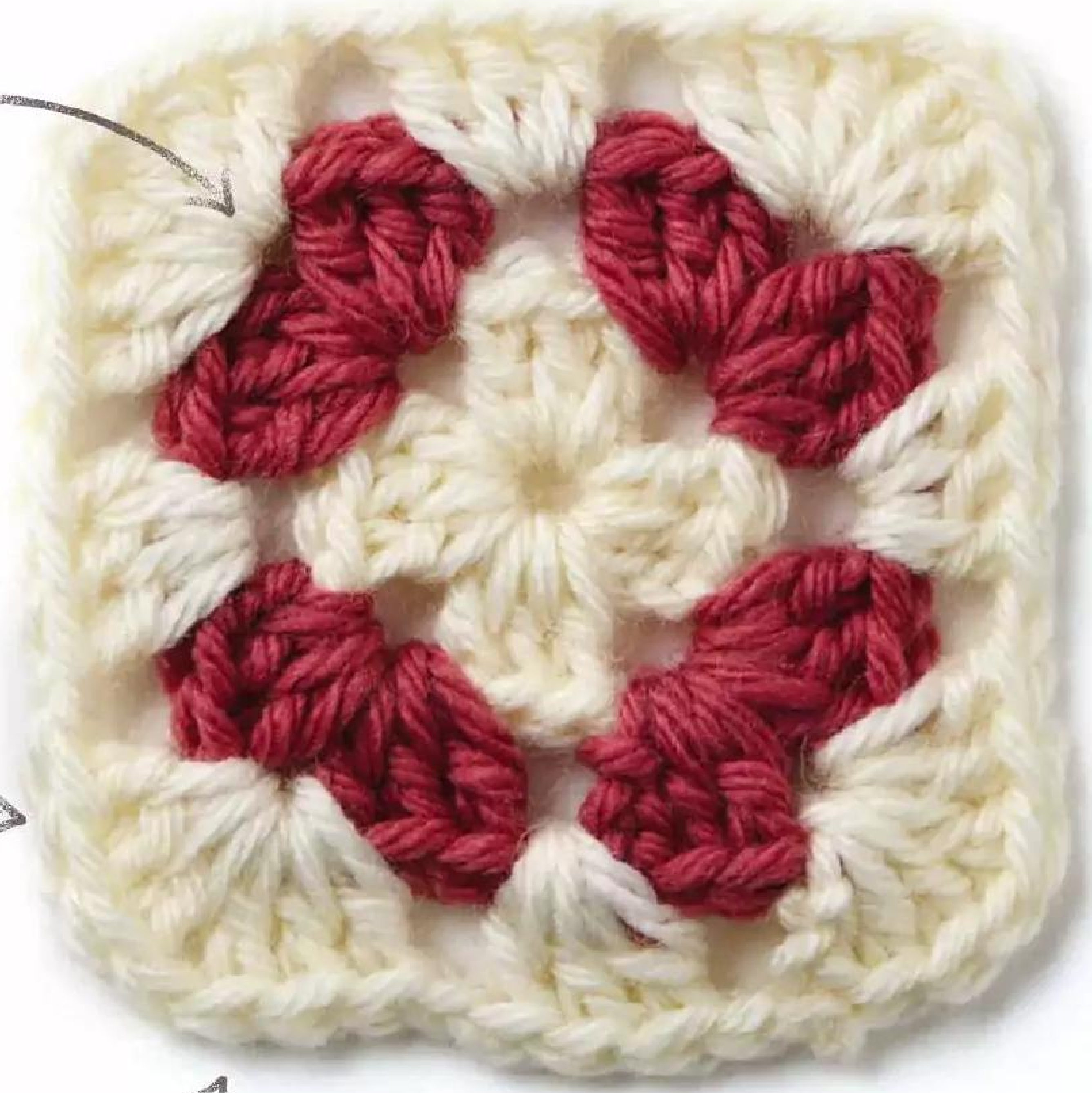
or orange and blue. This approach is not for the faint-hearted but it can work really well. Alternatively, pop into your local yarn shop for some advice – fellow yarn-crafters will always jump at the chance to coo over different yarn choices! And of course, it's always helpful to hold the balls of yarn together to see how they look before you start crocheting. Of course, colour choice is very personal, so go for colours you love, especially if you're making a big project. For gifts, make sure you're working with shades the recipient will be delighted to receive!

STITCHES & COLOUR

A colour effect as simple as stripes can become more interesting when you vary the stitches you're using. For example, combine double and treble stitches in the same row to create the look of wavy stripes. Or try crocheting a row of dense double crochet stitches with one colour, followed by a row of lacy treble crochet in another colour. You could also try spiked double crochet stitches, where you insert the hook into a stitch a few rows below the previous row, and work an elongated stitch here.

COLOUR ROUNDS

Create concentric colour effects



SIMPLE ROUNDS

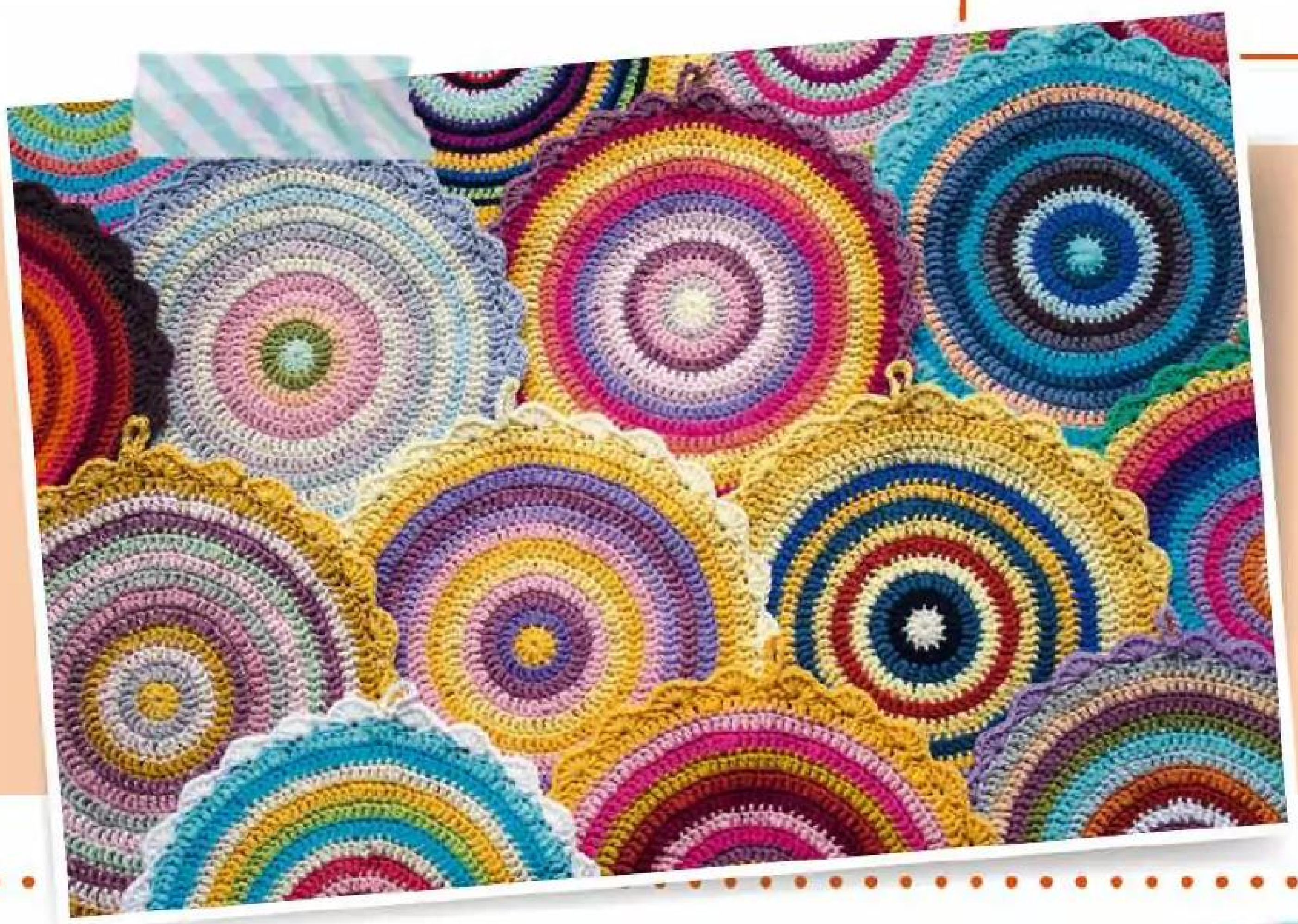
Working colour changes in the round can create some gorgeous, eye-popping effects. You can either change colour when you slip stitch the round closed, or fasten off each round and start again with a new colour (see both methods on pages 70 and 71).

TENSION ISSUES

When you're using different colours of the same yarn in a design, this shouldn't affect the tension of your work, so you don't have to make a new tension square if you change colours.

COLOUR CHOICE

Be careful with your choice of yarn colour. Place the balls of yarn next to each other to make sure they work together. If you're making a garment, place them next to your skin as well, to make sure they suit your skin tone. For a safe colour effect, use shades of the same colour, such as dark blue and light blue.



COLOUR INSPIRATION

You can find colour inspiration for your crochet projects all around you, from objects around the house to clothes in your wardrobe, or just while you're out and about, at the park, on the beach, or in the forest. You'll find interesting colour combinations everywhere, if you look for them. Blogger Marinke Slump (aka Wink) celebrated colour in her work, with bright mandalas (see left) being typical of her style. Visit www.acreativebeing.com for instant colour inspiration!

Three to try! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your hook at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Crochet* magazine! To get the patterns from the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues by downloading the *Simply Crochet* app in the App Store, or to view on an Android device or a computer, find us on www.zinio.com/gb/simply-crochet-m6370. Every purchase is stored permanently in your magazine library. Once the magazine has been downloaded an internet connection is not required, so you craft whenever you like.

1 *Start here!* BEGINNER

Crocheted in the round, granny squares like this are great for practising your colour skills because they're small and usually use just treble stitches, chains and slip stitch. Turn to page 72 for the pattern.

2 *Brighten up!* IMPROVER

A mandala is a circular pattern that's perfect for developing your eye for colour and showing off your flair for choosing beautiful shades! This warm and zingy example can be found in *Simply Crochet* issue 60.

3 *Fab cardi!* EXPERT

This striped cardigan from issue 80 of *Simply Crochet* is a marvellous mix of stitches and even features sequins! Designed by Pat Strong, this longline cardi will be a fab all-rounder for your wardrobe.

COLOURFUL ROWS

How to switch to a different yarn for colourful effects

Whether you're changing colour or your ball of yarn has run out, you can use the same simple technique to join in new yarn.

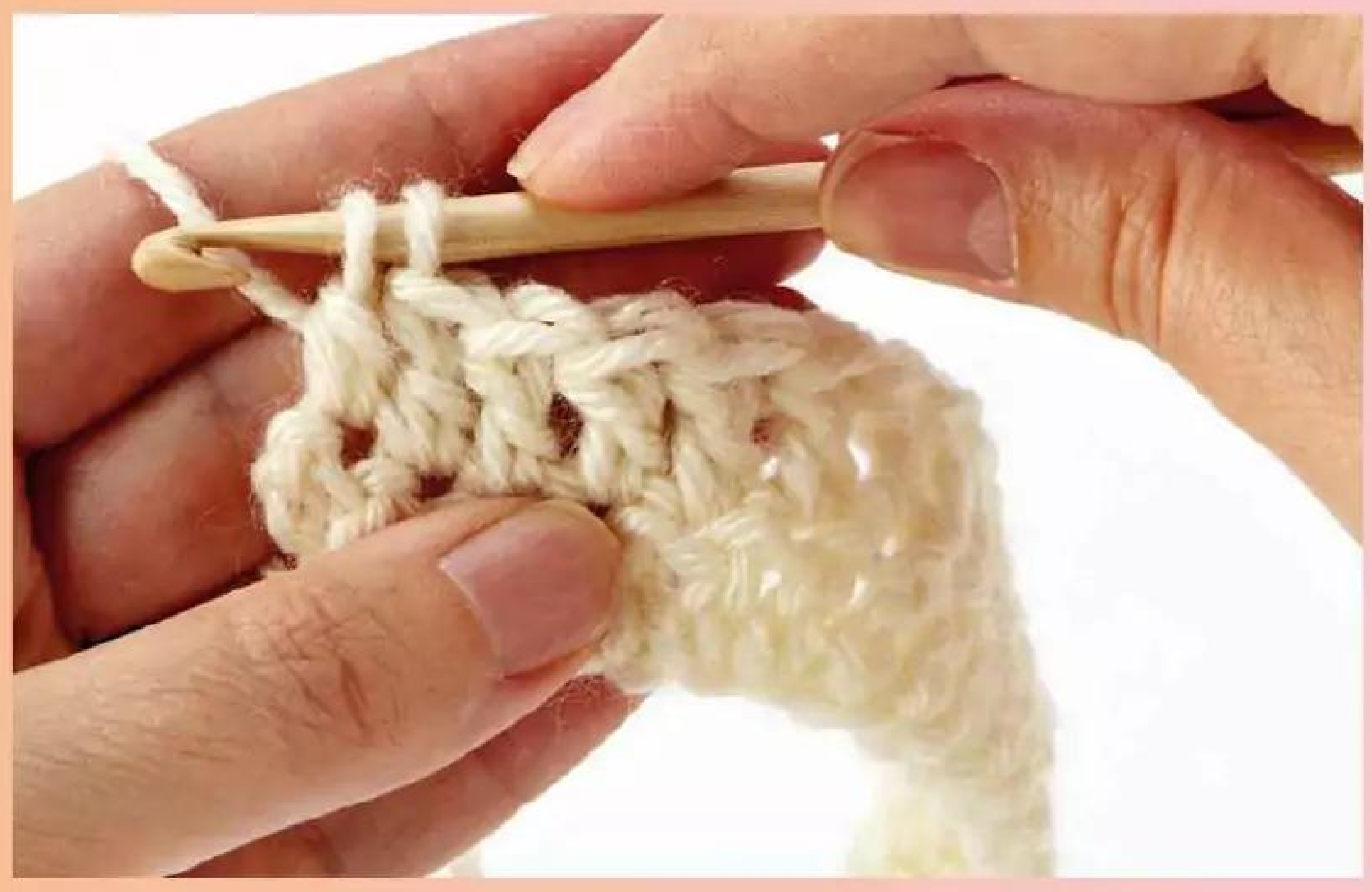
Some crocheters just knot the old yarn to the new yarn and carry on crocheting. Others like to fasten off the old yarn and then knot a loop of the new yarn in place at the fabric edge. Both of these can create a bulky knot that might show on the right side or be annoying when you're sewing up.

The yarn-changing method we'll show you below is easy and neat. The idea behind it is that you work the final yarn round hook action of the last stitch of the old row with the new yarn. This means you'll instantly be ready to work the next row with the new colour, and it won't cause you any issues if you're sewing any pieces of crochet fabric together later on.

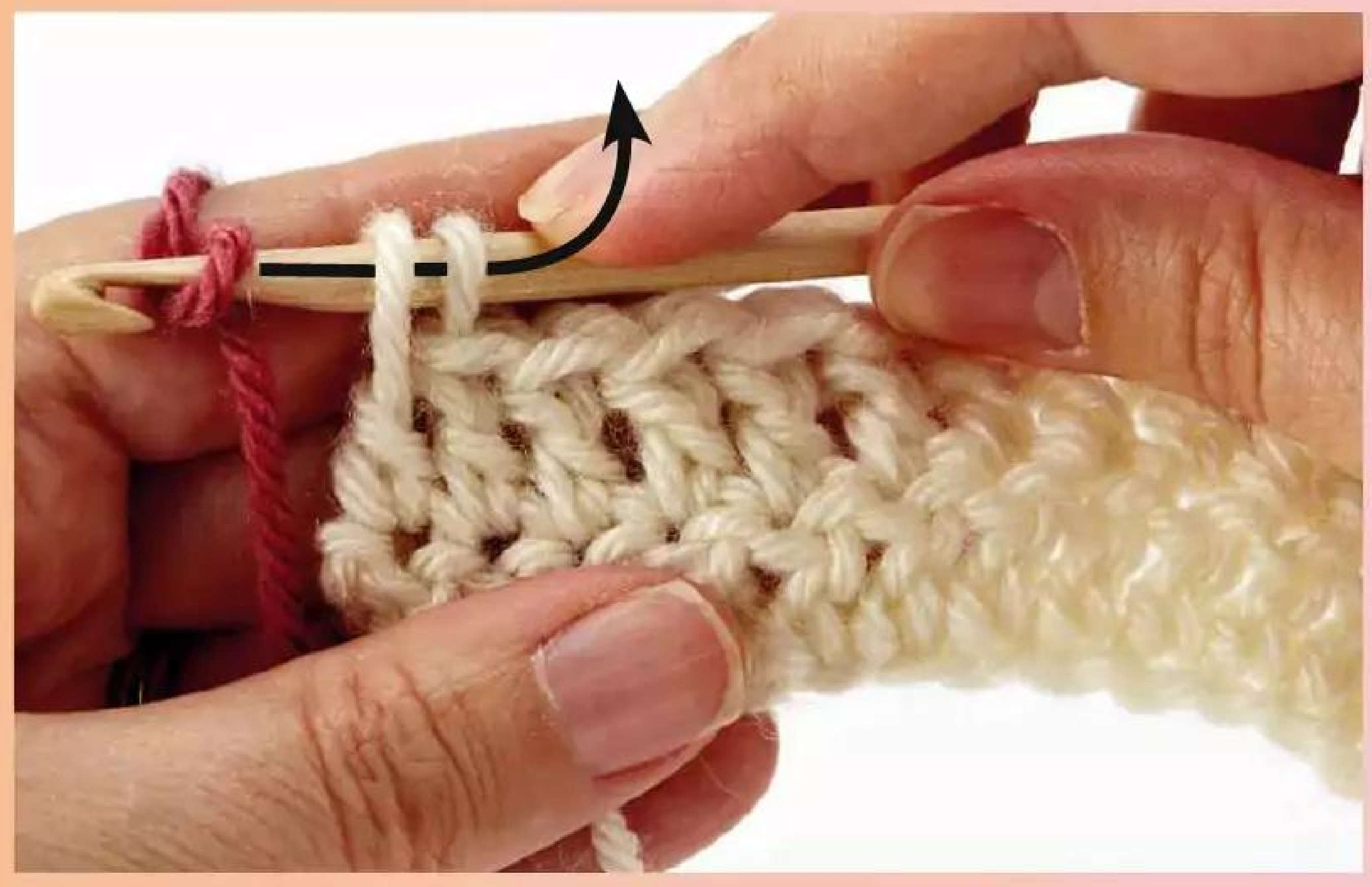
We've told you where to cut the old yarn, but for the first few times, you might like to wait until you're sure you've done the technique correctly before snipping it off!

RIGHT-HAND

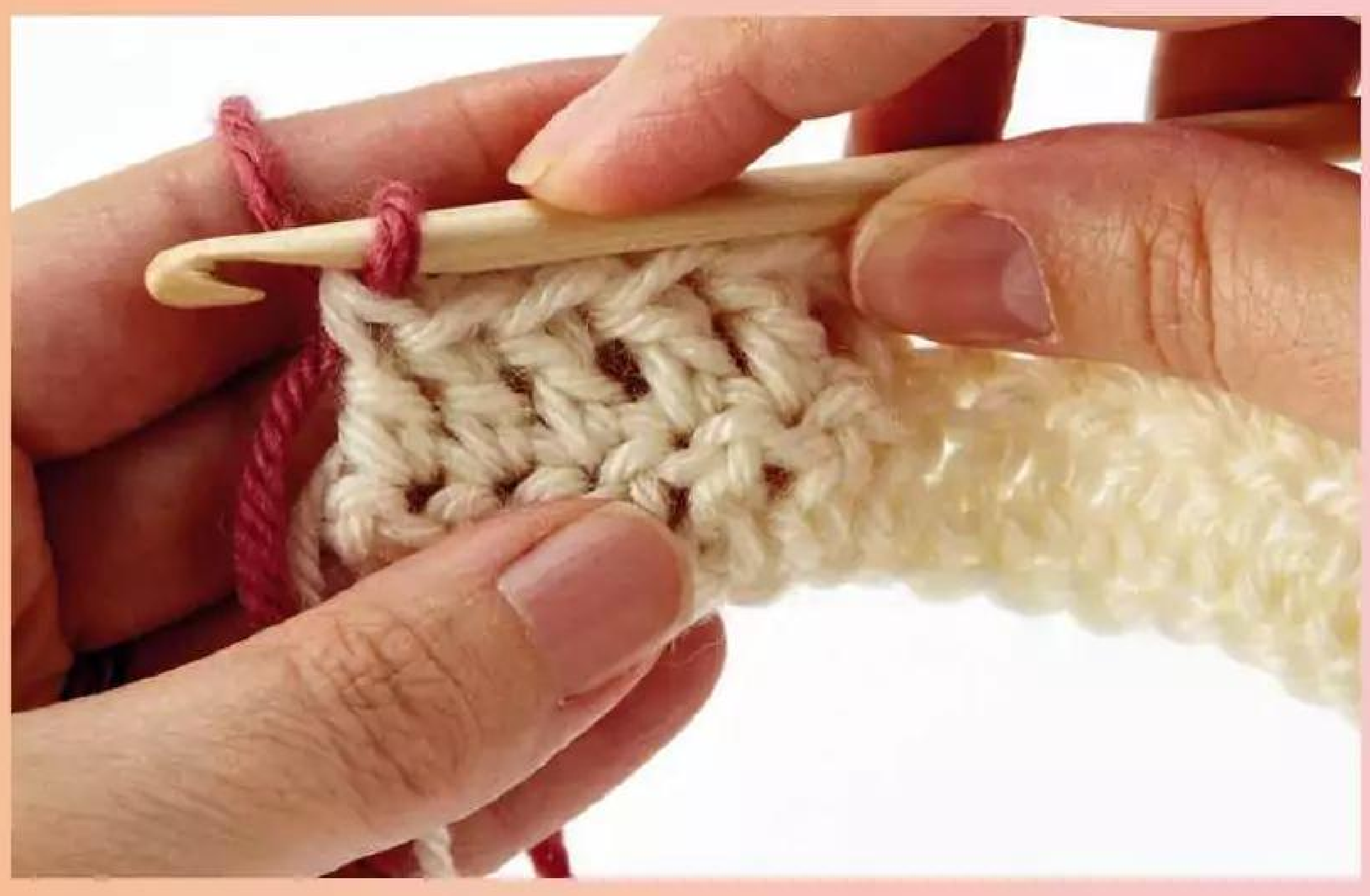
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to create colourful stripes…



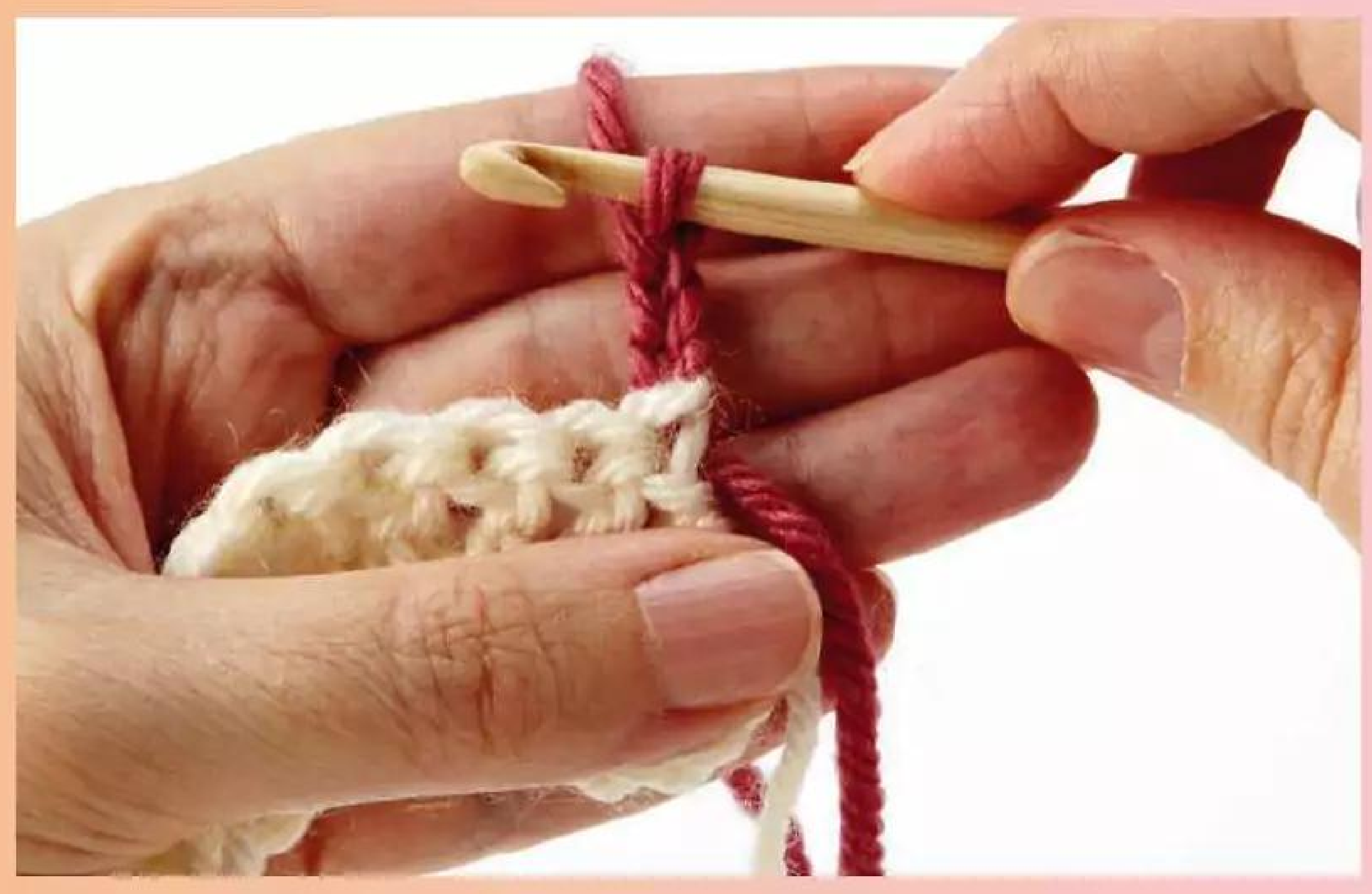
1 Start the final stitch of the row, but stop before working the final yarn round hook action. For a treble stitch (above), you'd work yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first two loops, then stop.



2 Cut the old yarn, leaving a long tail (about 10cm long). Now loop your new yarn colour around the hook, leaving a long tail of yarn (about 10cm long).



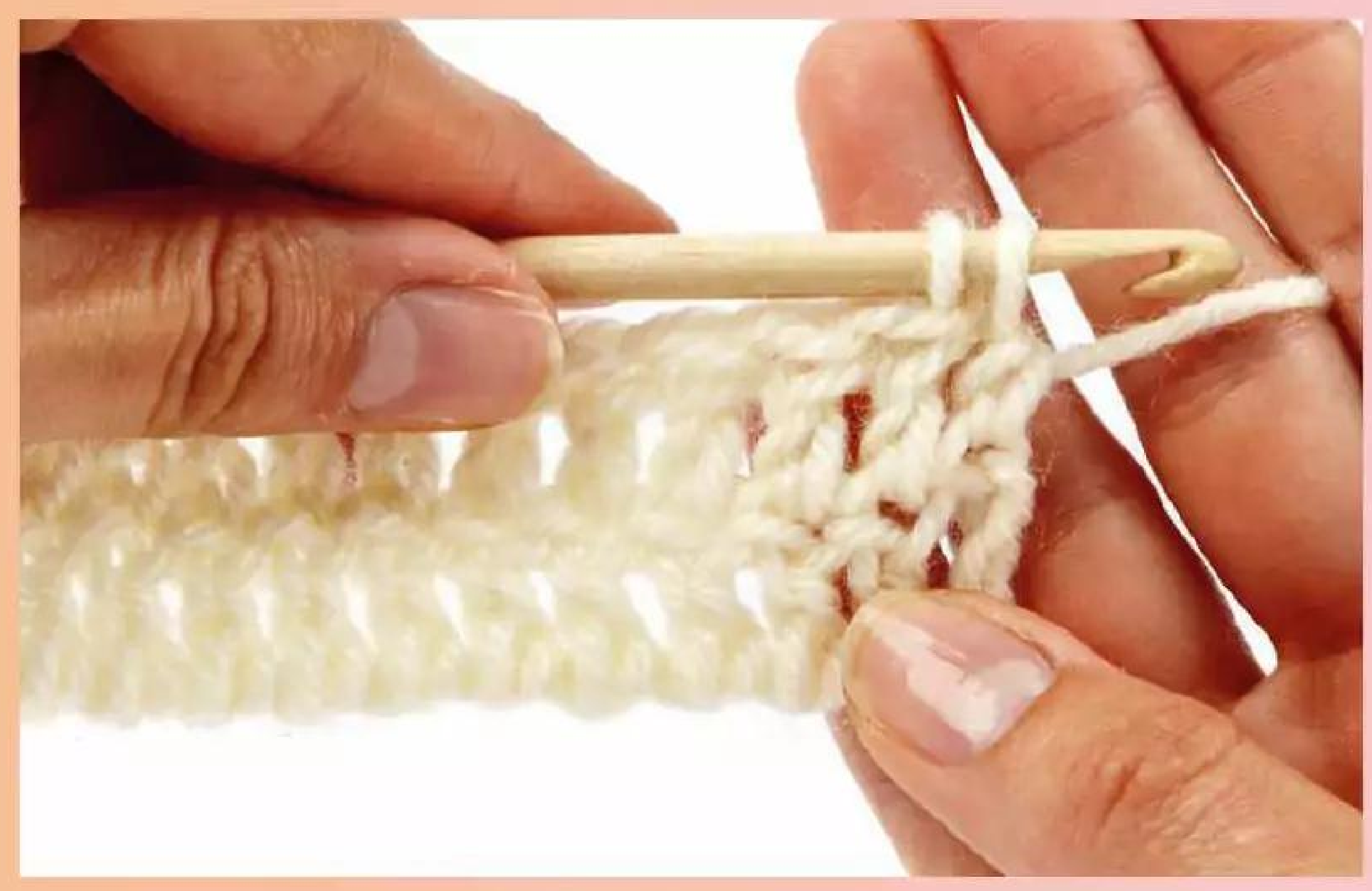
3 Pull the new yarn loop through the remaining two loops on the hook to finish the stitch. Pull the old and new yarn ends to tighten the loop on the hook.



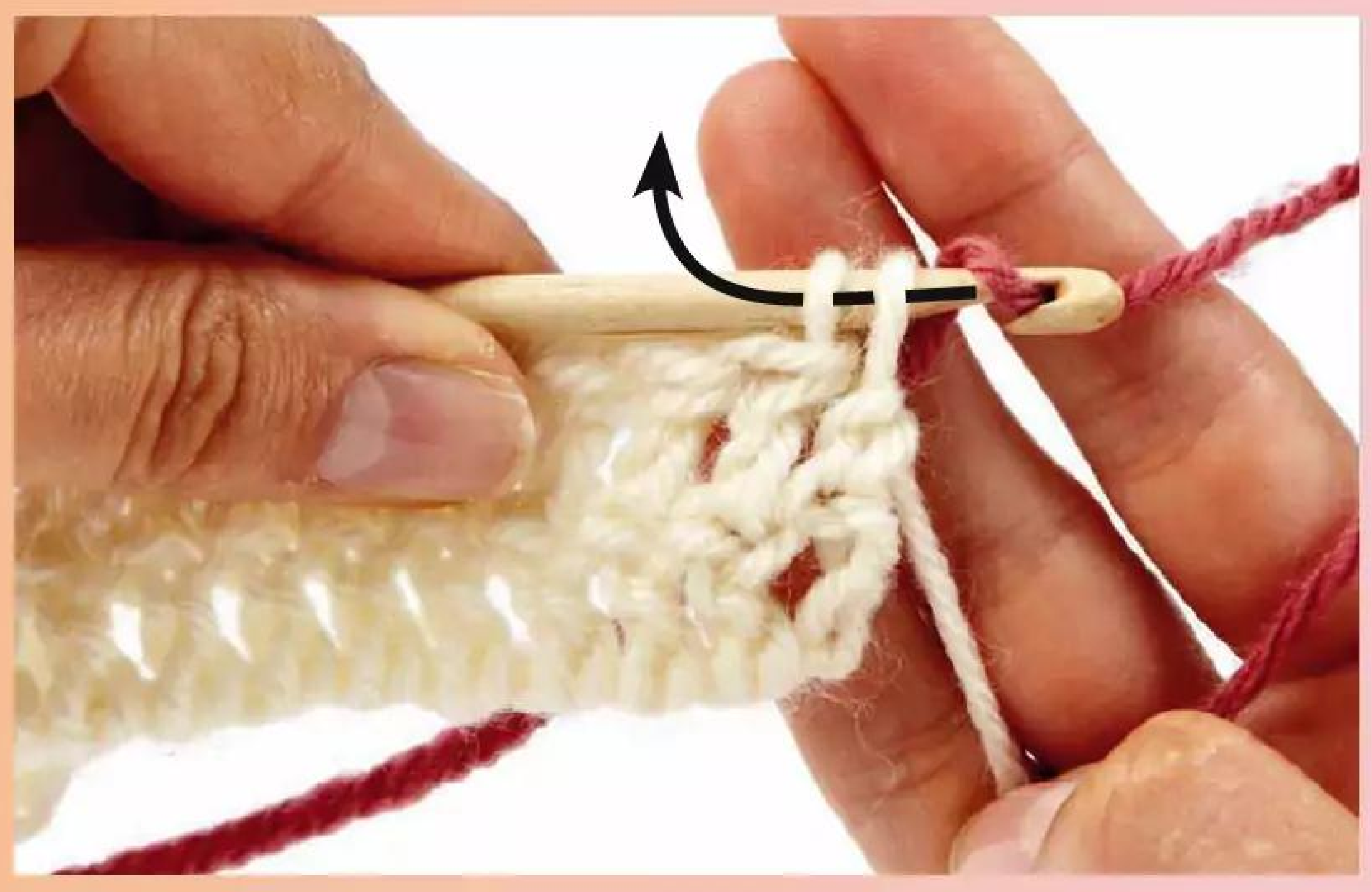
4 Now you can work the turning chain of the new row in the new colour (3ch for treble). Then work the stitches of the new row in the new yarn colour.

LEFT-HAND

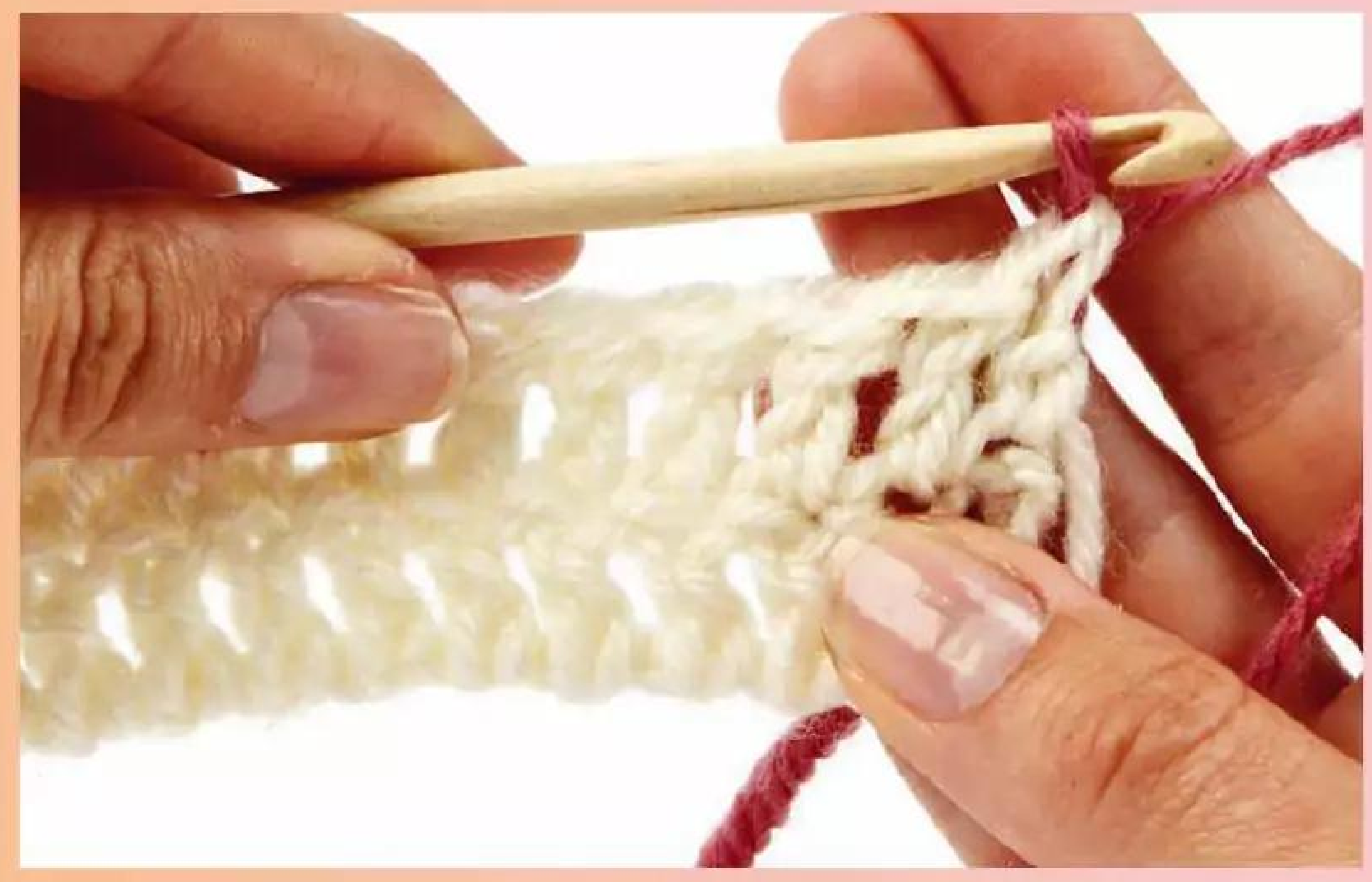
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to create colourful stripes...



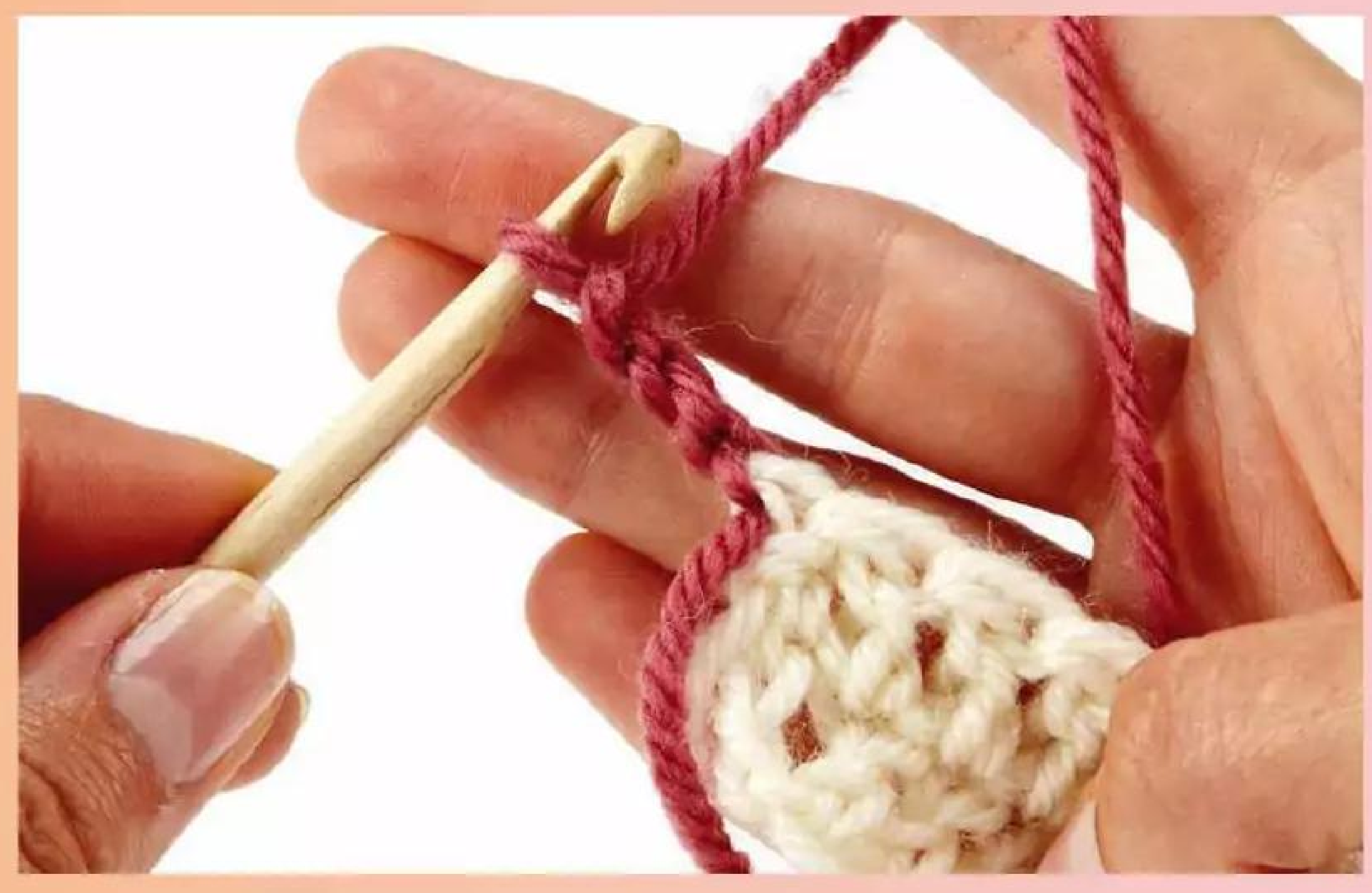
1 Start the final stitch of the row, but stop before working the final yarn round hook action. For a treble stitch (above), you'd work yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first two loops, then stop.



2 Cut the old yarn, leaving a long tail (about 10cm long). Now loop your new yarn colour around the hook, leaving a long tail of yarn (about 10cm long).



3 Pull the new yarn loop through the remaining two loops on the hook to finish the stitch. Pull the old and new yarn ends to tighten the loop on the hook.



4 Now you can work the turning chain of the new row in the new colour (3ch for treble). Then work the stitches of the new row in the new yarn colour.

HOW TO CHANGE STITCH COLOUR

Use the same technique to change colour anywhere on a row

You can use the above technique to change the colour of rows, rounds or individual stitches. No matter which stitch you're working, the principle is the same: join in the new colour on the final yrh of a stitch, so that the next stitch will be in the new colour. For double crochet (shown right), you would insert hook, yrh, pull loop through and stop. Then pull a loop of the new colour through the two loops, ready to work the next stitch. You'll need to think ahead to where you want to start working with your new colour and switch to the new yarn in the stitch before that.

COLOURFUL ROUNDS

Change yarn in the round for colourful effects

When working in the round, you can create amazing colour effects by working different rounds in different shades – traditional granny squares are a great example of how this can work to eye-popping effect.

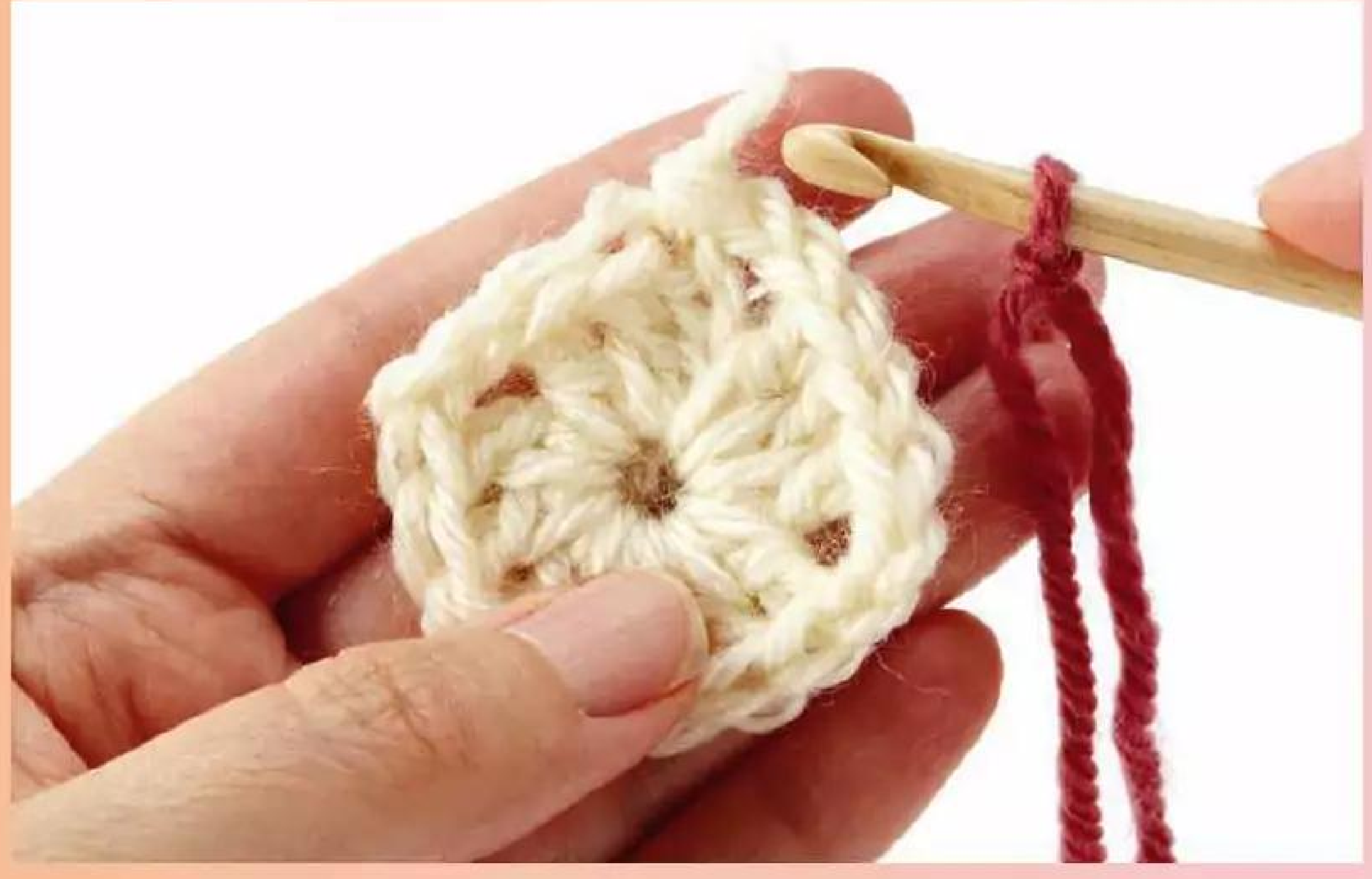
When you're working with rounds, it's often better to fasten off each round and then join the new yarn colour by using the slipknot technique (shown below). This method is also handy when you're working lacy motifs.

There are some other ways to change yarn colour when you're working in the round. You can also use the slip stitch technique (shown opposite at the bottom of the page). Each method creates a different look, so try them out and choose the one you think works best for each project you work on.

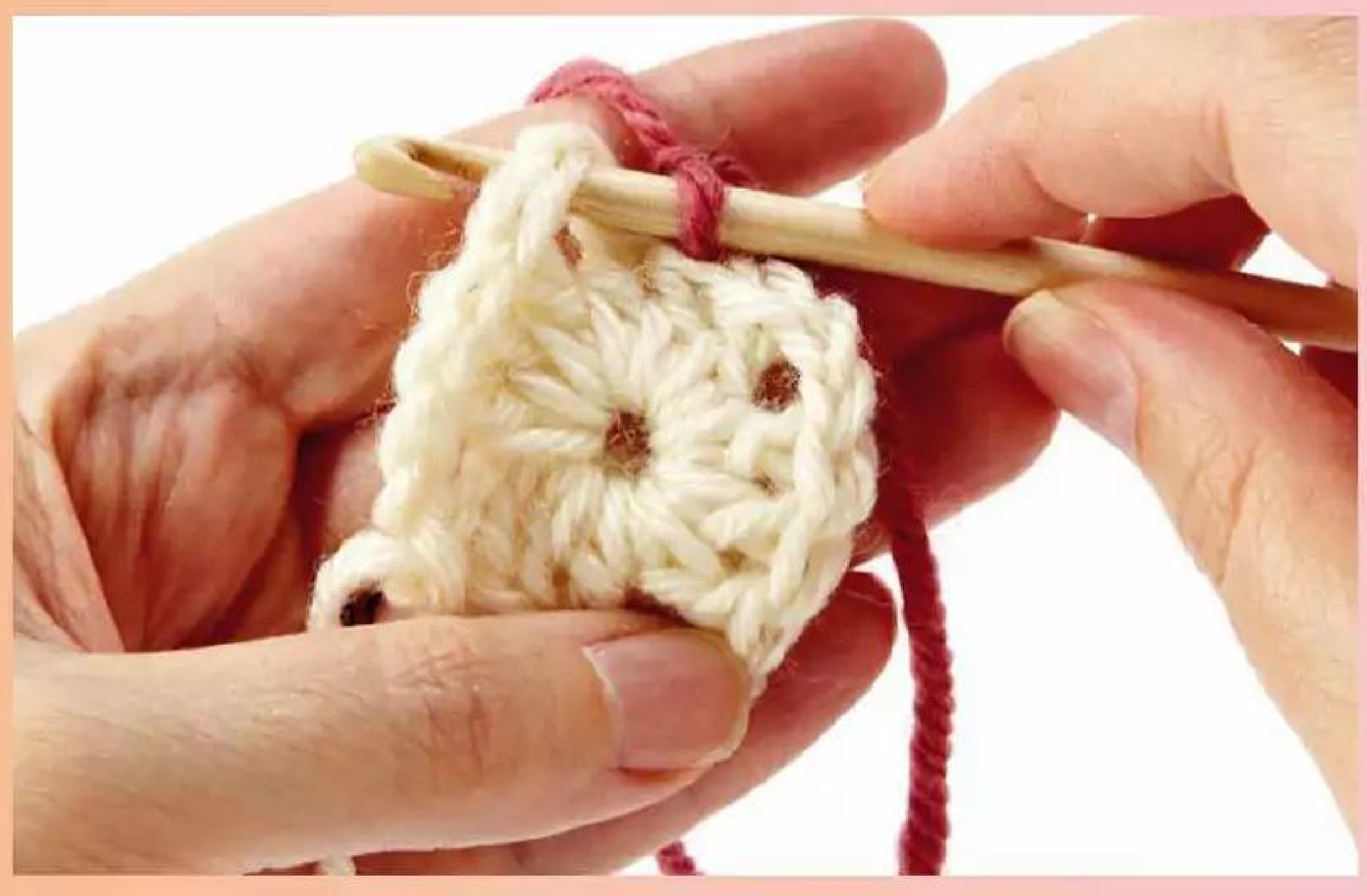
In both methods, we've stated where to cut the old yarn, but if you're not sure, wait until you're sure you've done the technique correctly before cutting.

RIGHT-HAND

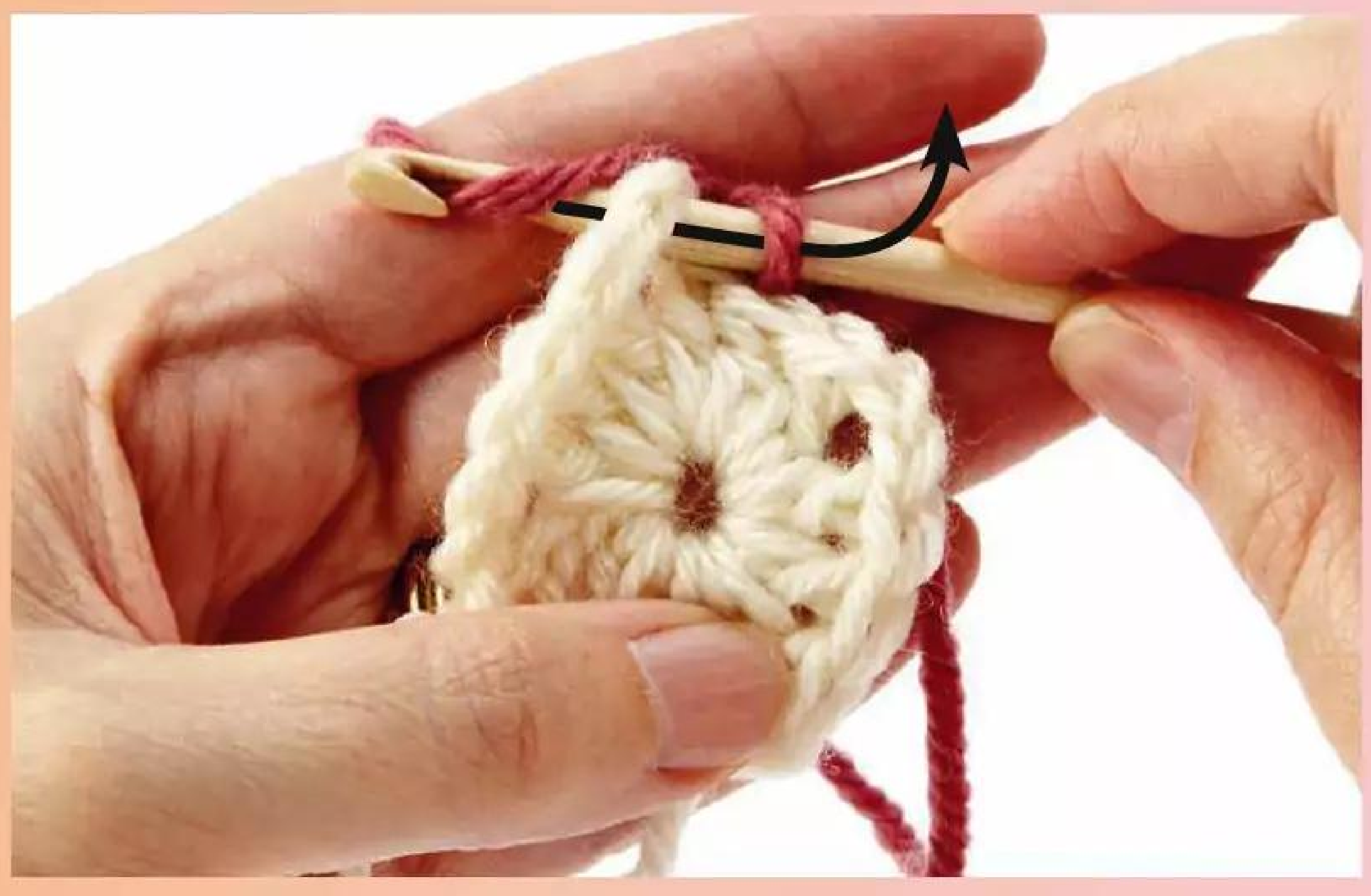
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to change round colours...



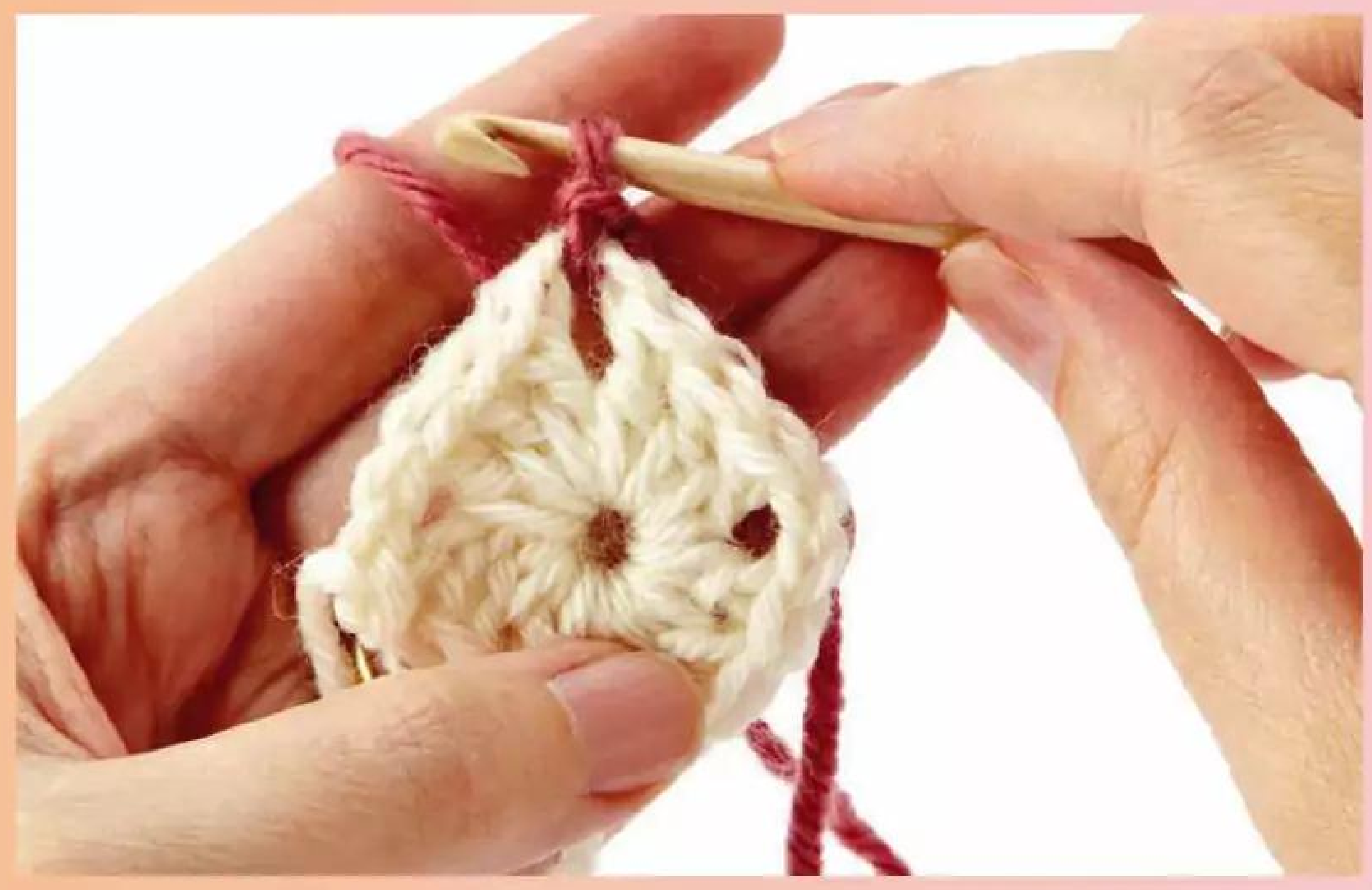
1 Fasten off the previous round in the old yarn colour and cut the old yarn, leaving a 10cm-long tail. Make a slipknot in the new yarn colour and place on your hook.



2 Insert the hook into the place where you want to join the yarn. Hold the working yarn and tail end at the back of the work (to help keep the slipknot at the back).



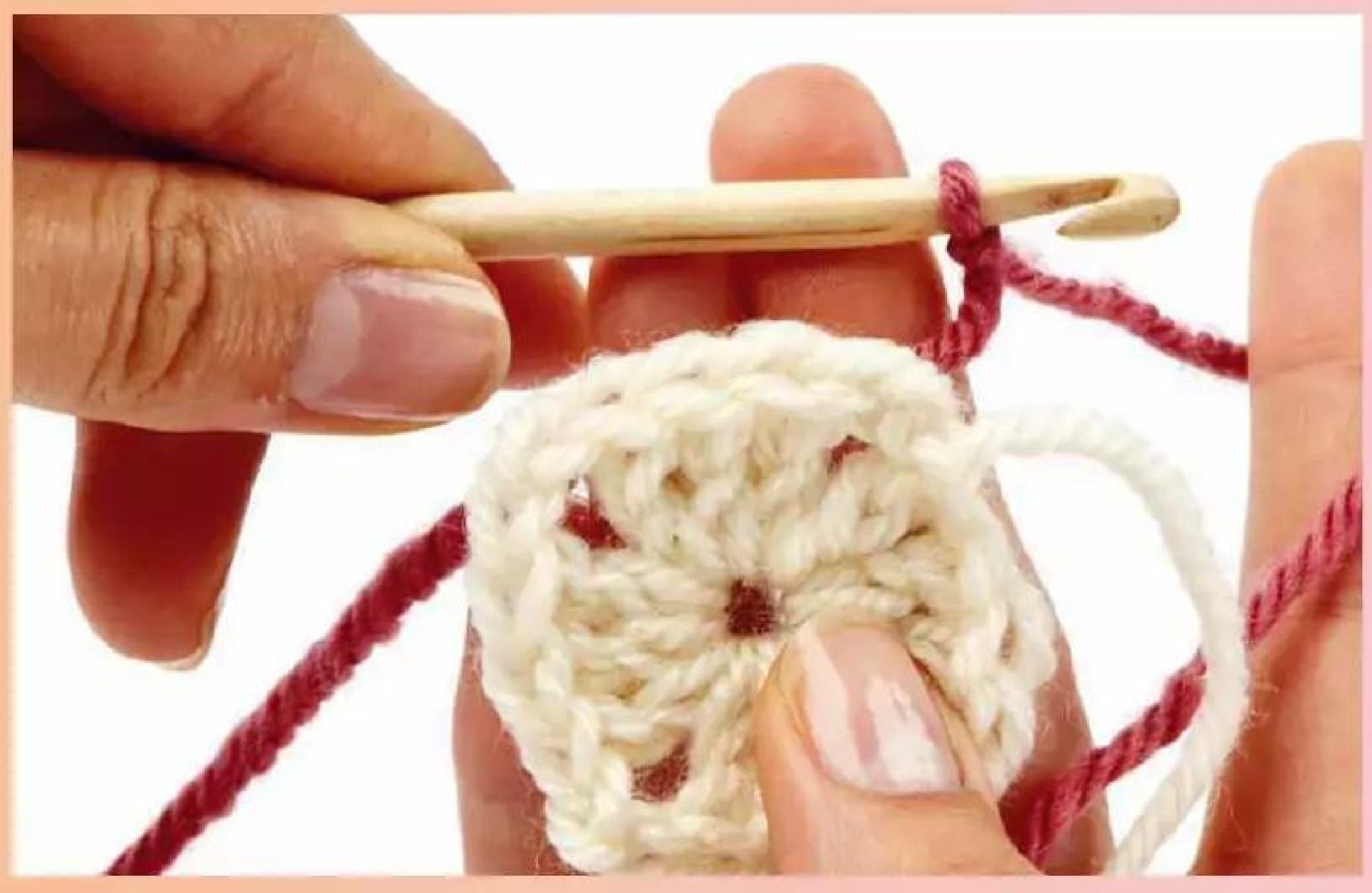
3 Now work a slip stitch, placing yrh...



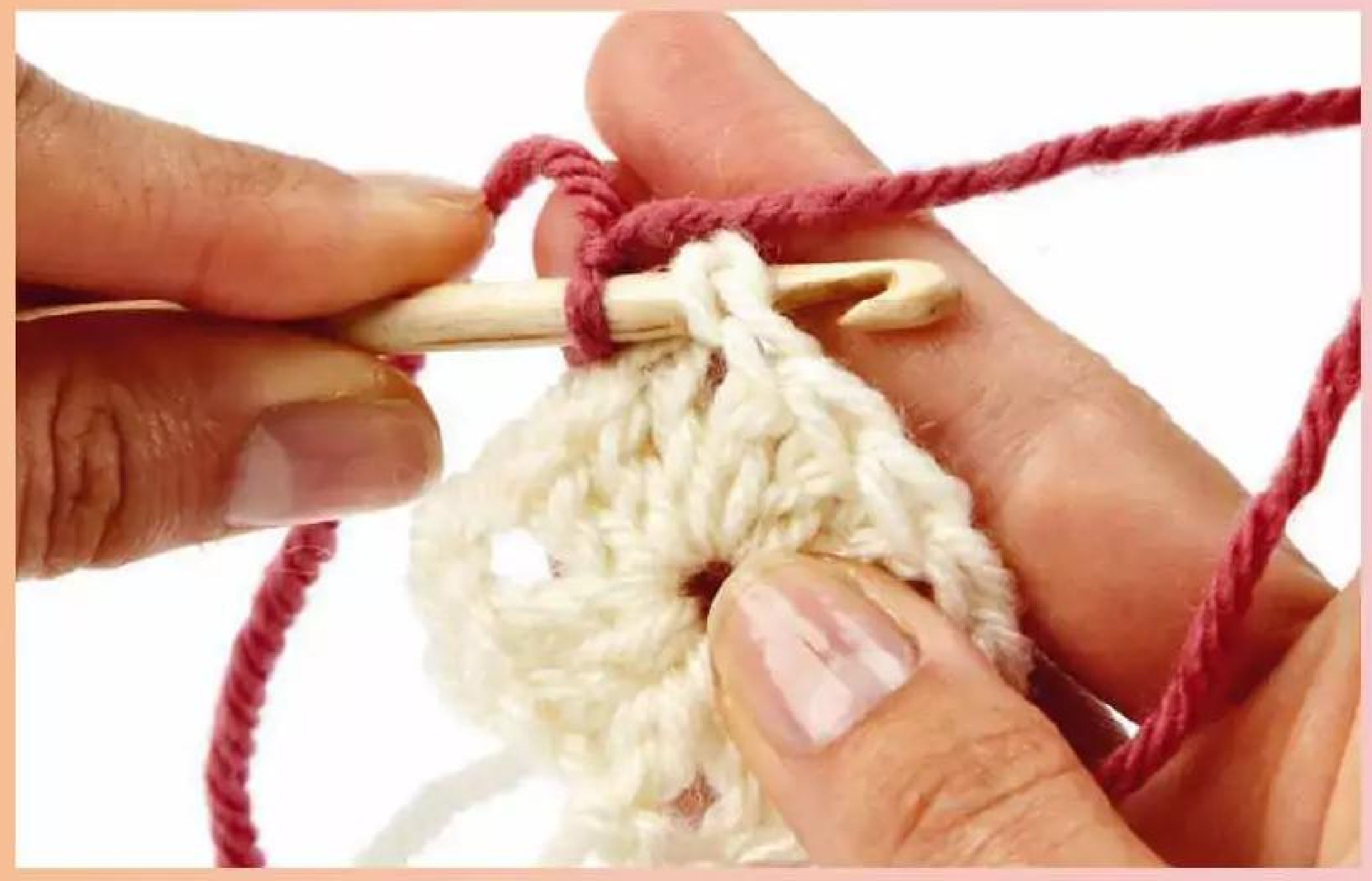
4 ...and pull yarn through the chain space and the slipknot. Make the turning chain for the new round and work the stitches in the new colour for the new round.

LEFT-HAND

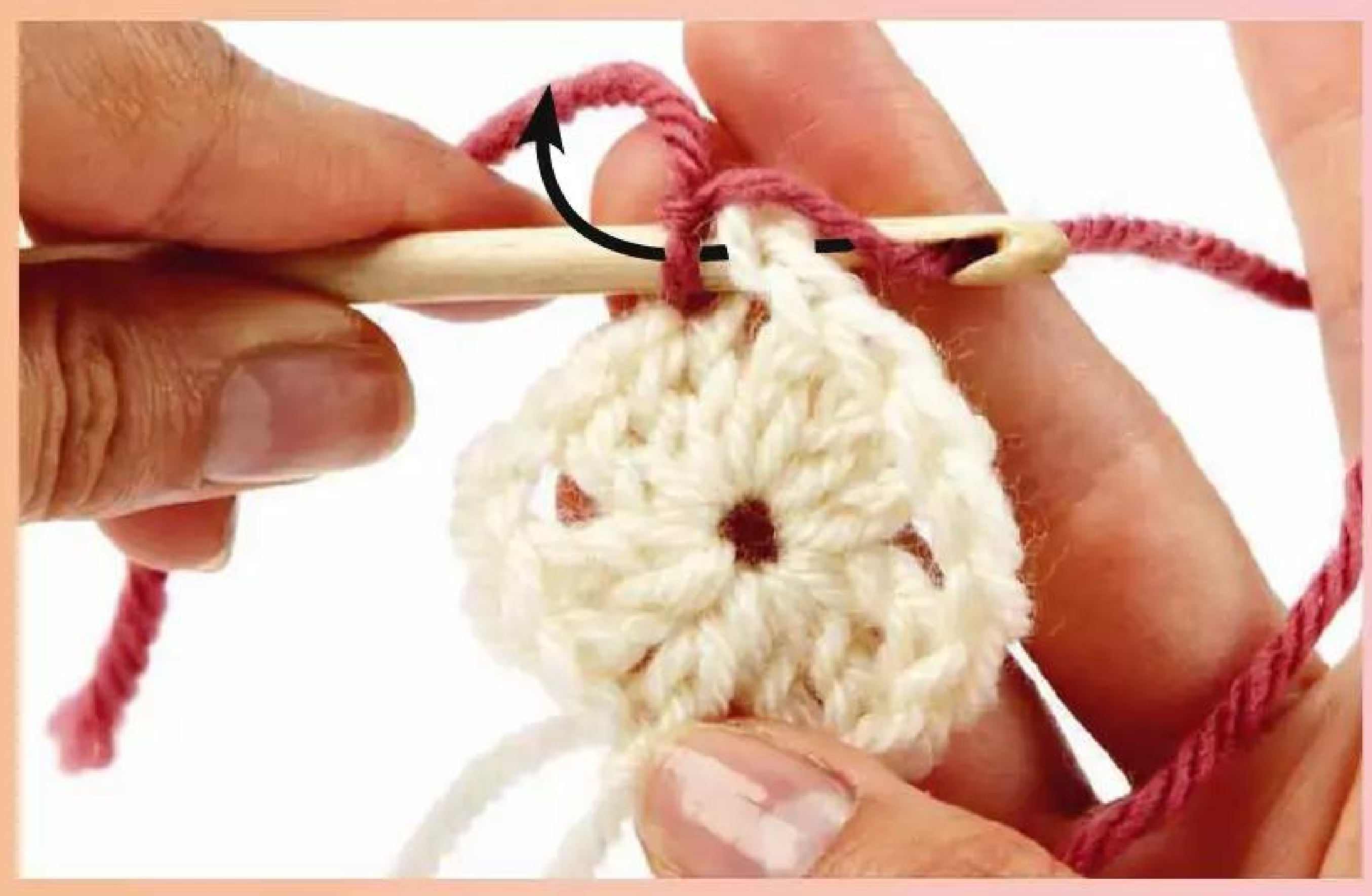
If you’re left-handed, follow these steps to change round colours…



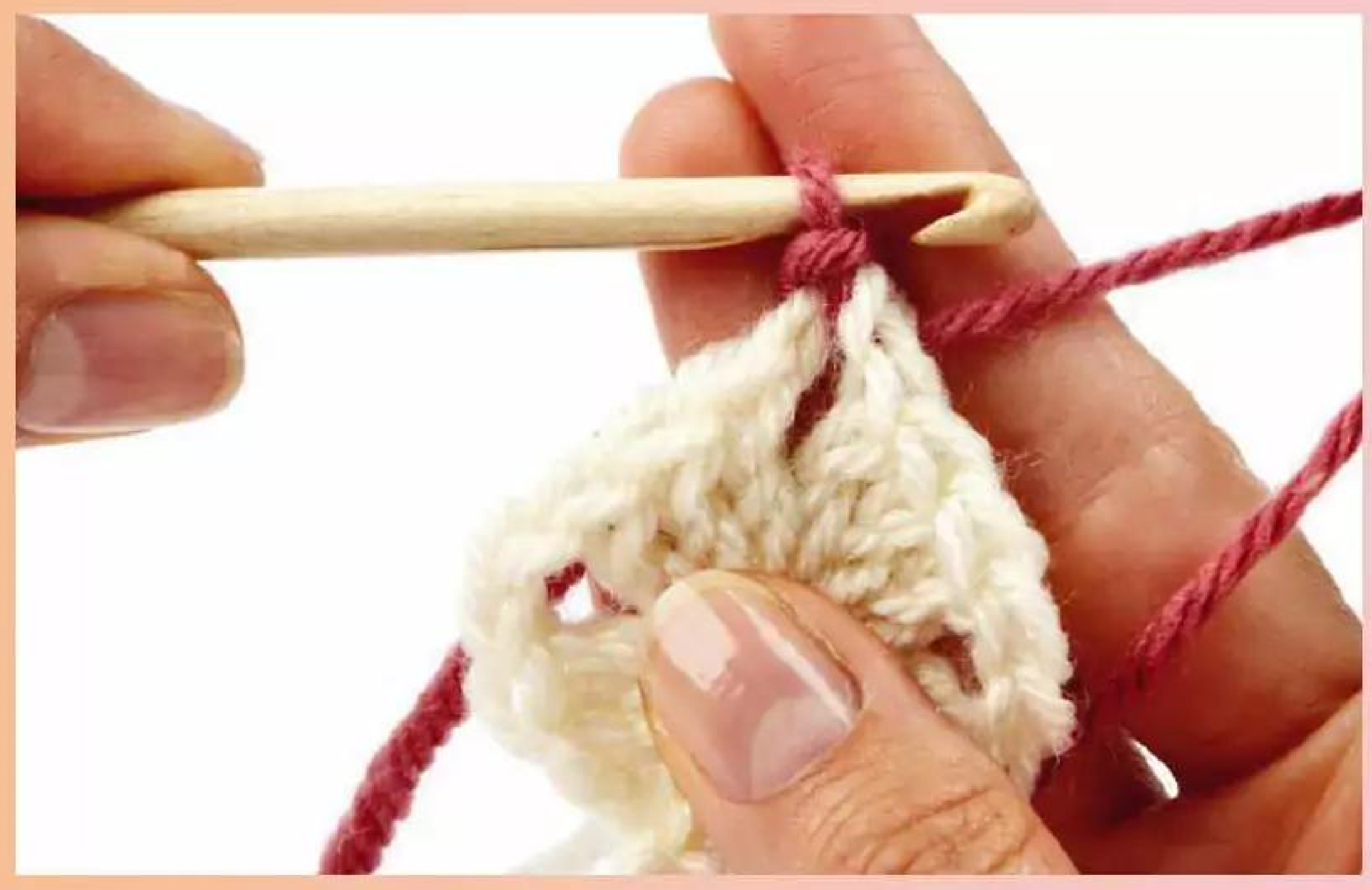
1 Once you’ve fastened off the previous round, make a slipknot in the new yarn colour and place on your hook.



2 Insert the hook into the place where you want to join the yarn. Hold the working yarn and tail end at the back of the work (to help keep the slipknot at the back).



3 Now work a slip stitch, placing yrh…

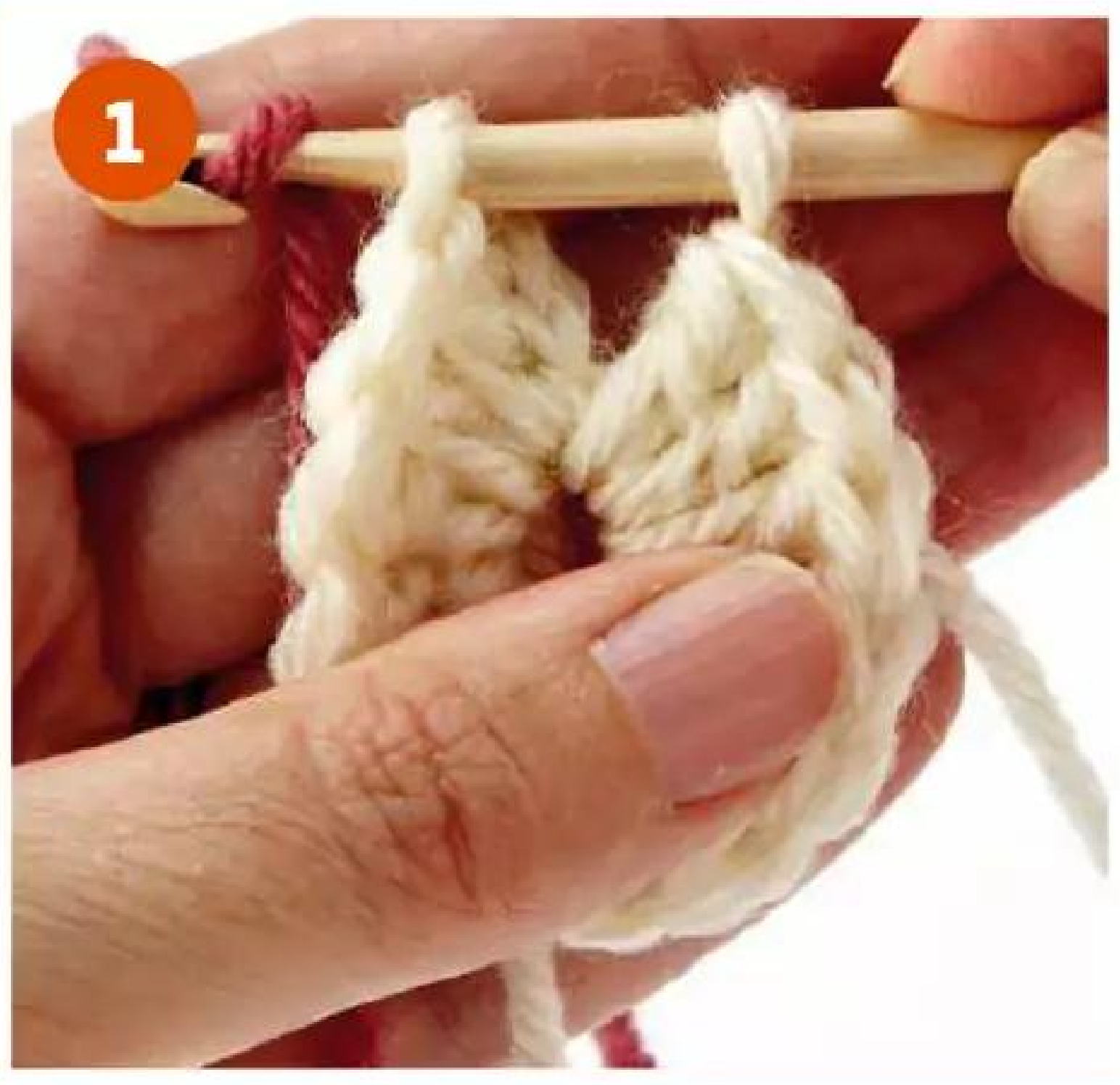


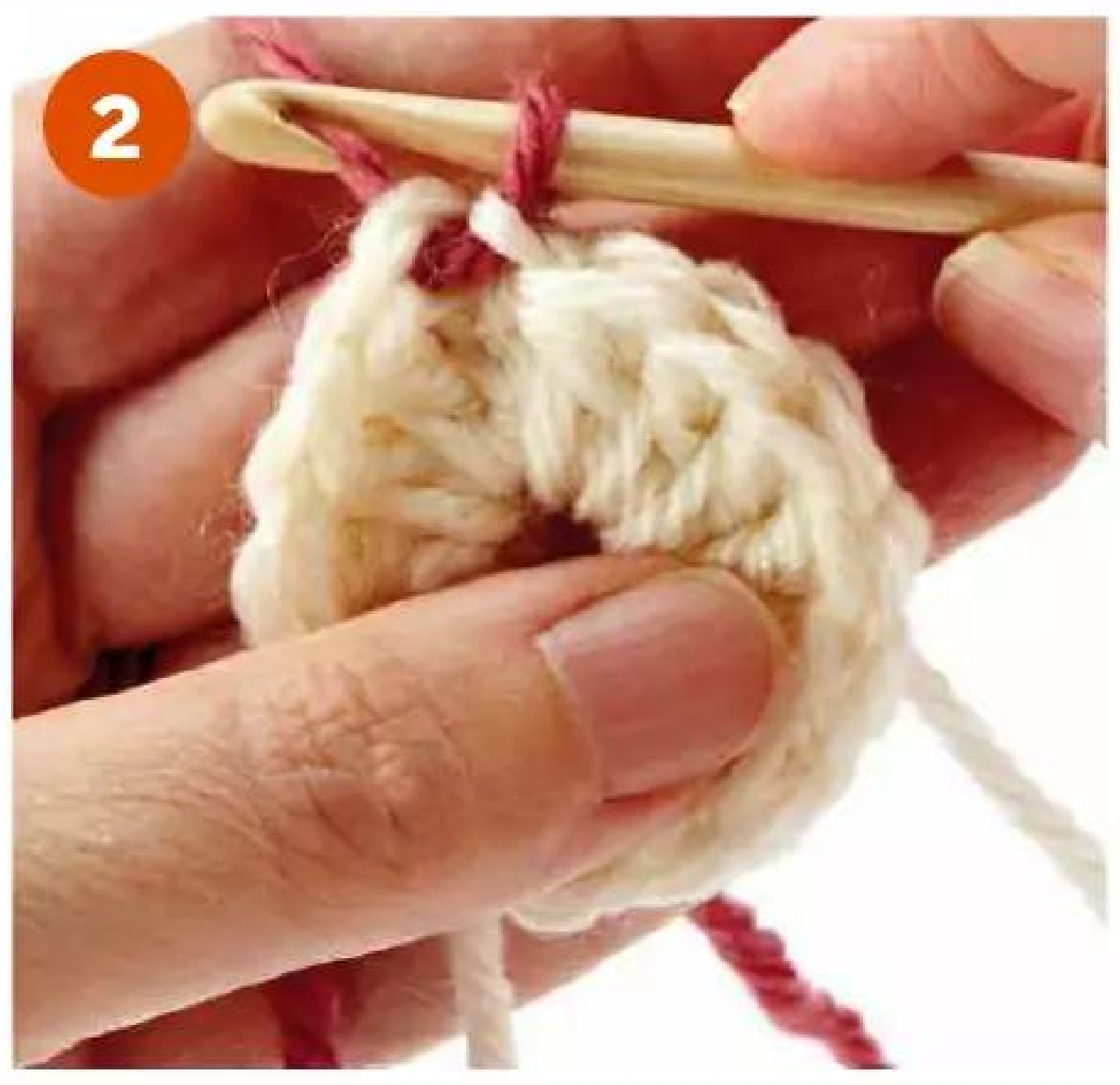
4 …and pull yarn through the chain space and the slipknot. Make the turning chain for the new round and work the stitches in the new colour for the new round.

ALTERNATIVE METHOD

Try out another way of changing colour in the round

You can also change colour in the round by using the slip stitch technique. This method is best for dense motifs and works by using the new yarn to join the round together. After working the last stitch of a round, insert hook into the first stitch of the round (either the first dc or the top of the t-ch). Loop the new yarn around the hook, leaving a long tail ①. Pull the new yarn through both loops in the old yarn ②. Use the new yarn to work the new round. Cut off the old yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long to weave in.

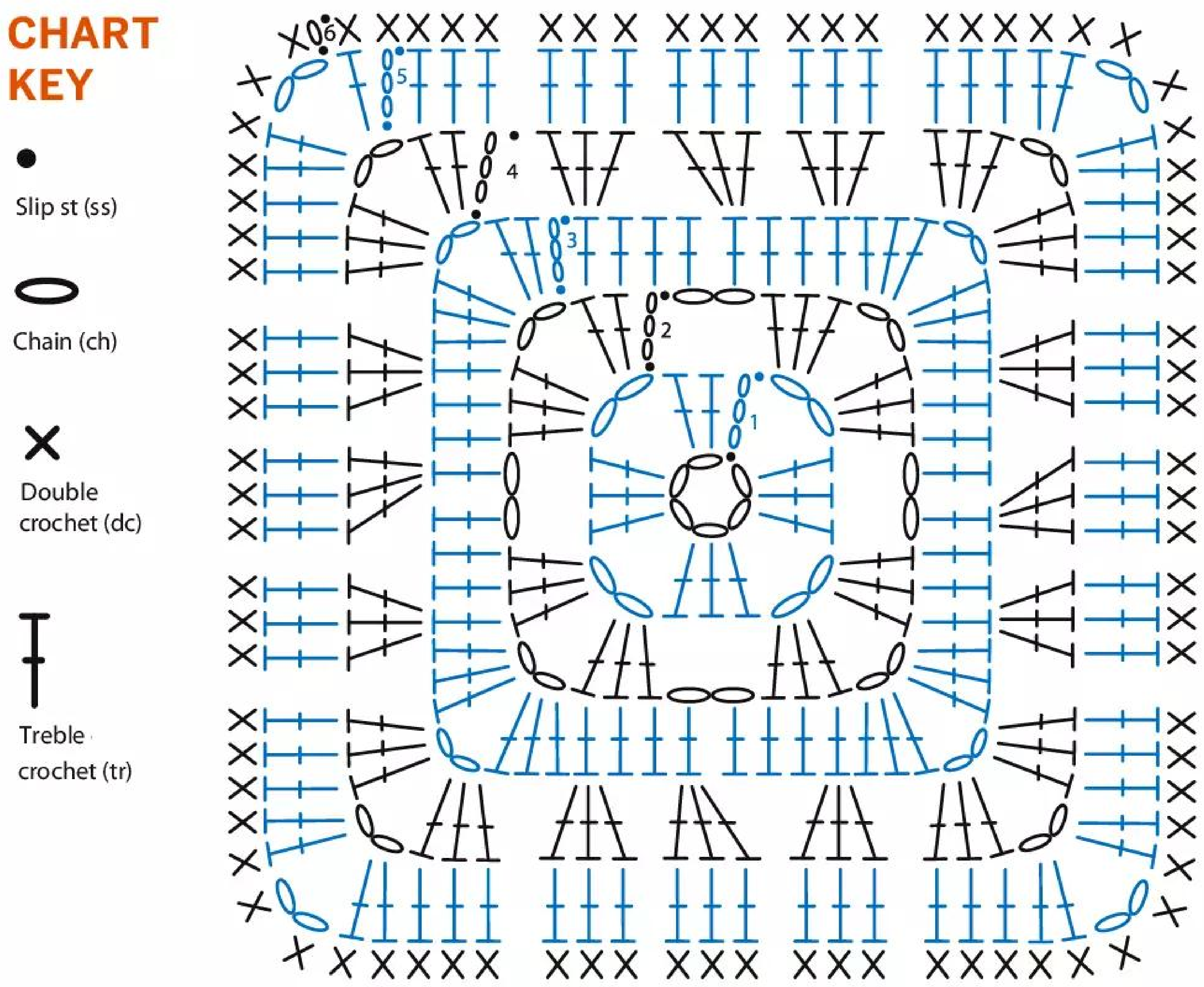




GRANNY SQUARE

Get creative with colour and make squares to join together into a scarf, cushion or throw

Practise colour changes



See bottom of the page for how to use this chart

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Any yarn, in 6 colours

Yarn shown is 100% cotton but you can use most yarns for this pattern

HOOK

- Relevant size for your yarn, we used 4mm (US G/6) hook

NOTIONS

- A pair of scissors
- A tapestry needle

TENSION & SIZE

Tension is not critical for this project. Our finished square meas approx 10x10cm (4x4in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 18

HOW TO MAKE THE SQUARE

With Yarn A, make a slipknot and place it onto your hook. Ch6 and ss into the first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into ring, ch2, (3tr into ring, ch2) three times, ss to top of beg ch-3, **fasten off**.

Round 2 Join Yarn B in any corner ch-2 sp with a ss. Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) into same ch-2 sp, *ch2, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into next ch-2 sp; rep from * twice, ch2, ss to top of beg ch-3, **fasten off**.

Round 3 Join Yarn C in any corner ch-2 sp with a ss. Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) into same ch-2 sp, *tr in each of next 3 tr, 2tr in next ch-2 sp, tr in each of next 3 tr, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into corner ch-2 sp; rep from * twice, tr in each of next 3 tr, 2tr in next ch-2 sp, tr in each of next 3 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3, **fasten off**.

Round 4 Join Yarn D in any corner ch-2 sp with a ss. Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) into same ch-2 sp, *skip next 3 tr, 3tr into next tr, skip next 2 tr, 3tr into next tr, skip next 3 tr, 3tr into next tr, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into same ch-2 sp; rep from * twice, skip next 3 tr, 3tr into next tr, skip next 2 tr, 3tr into next tr, skip next 3 tr, 3tr into next tr, ss to top of beg ch-3, **fasten off**.

Round 5 Join Yarn E in any corner ch-2 sp with a ss. Ch3 (counts as tr), (1tr, ch2, 2tr) into same ch-2 sp, *tr in each of next 15 tr, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) into next ch-2 sp; rep from * twice, tr in each of next 15 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3, **fasten off**.

Round 6 Join Yarn F in any corner ch-2 sp with a ss. Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each stitch around, working 2dc in each corner ch-2 sp, ss to first dc to join, **fasten off**. Weave in all ends.

TO MAKE UP

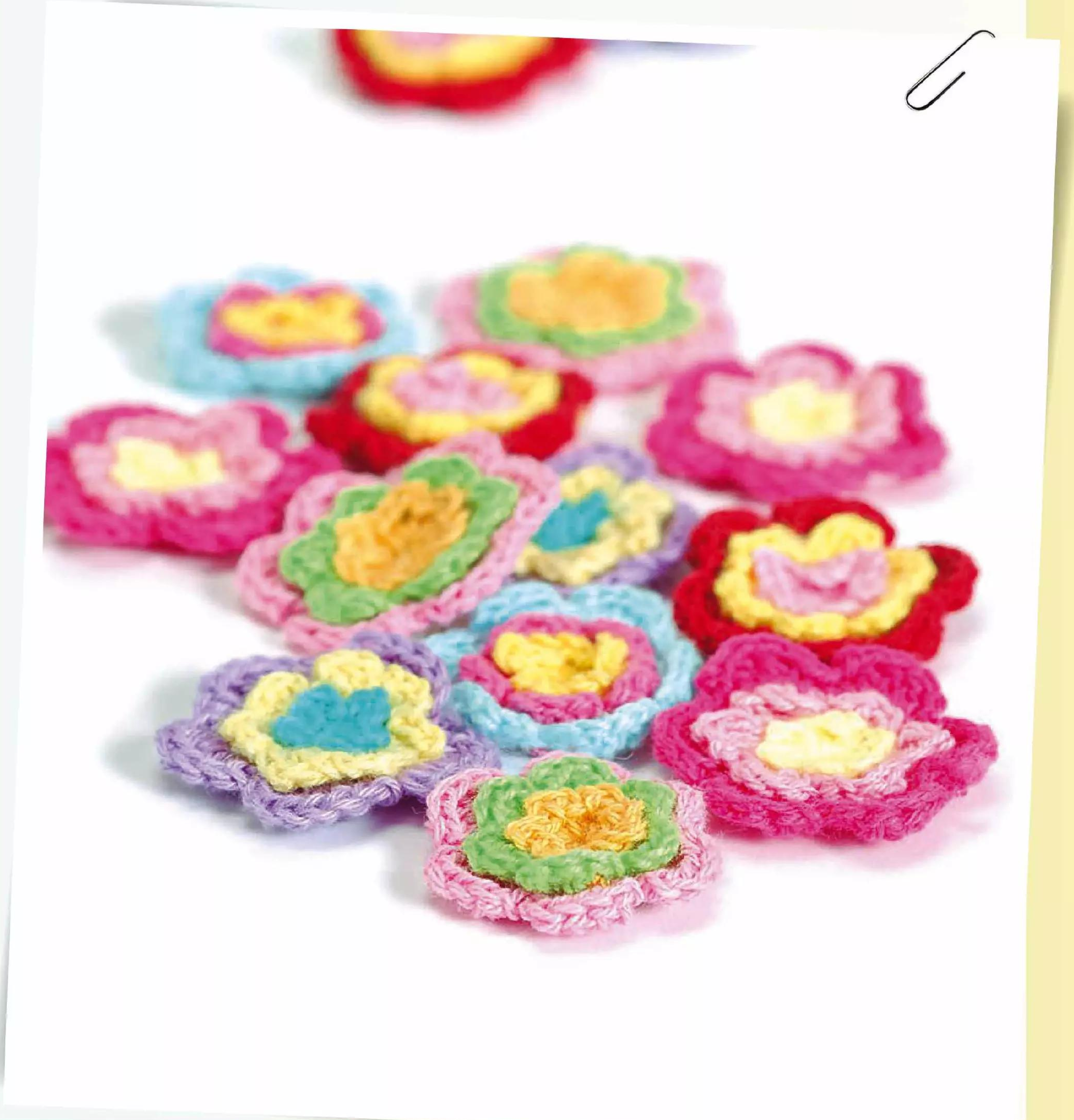
Make as many squares as you like. Sew together (using one of the methods on page 129) to make a scarf, cushion or blanket, or string them up as bunting.

HOW TO USE A CHART

Many patterns for crochet shapes and motifs come with a chart like the one above. It's a handy visual guide to where each stitch should be placed, which can be really helpful. For our full guide to reading crochet charts, head to www.gathered.how.

SHAPING CROCHET

Learn how to increase and decrease, to make all sorts of flat and three-dimensional shapes, from flower motifs and trendy accessories to well-fitting garments and adorable toys



ALL ABOUT... SHAPING

Open up your crocheting to a whole new world of possibilities open to you with shaping stitches. **Becky Skuse** gives us the low-down on the benefits of increasing and decreasing...

The world of crochet would be a very different one without increases and decreases – all we'd be able to make would be flat, straight fabrics, such as squares and scarves. By learning simple shaping stitches, you can create all sorts of shapes, including garments.

So what are increasing and decreasing stitches? And how do they change the shape of your crochet fabric? By now, you will have made a few squares or rectangles, working the same number of stitches on every row to keep the sides straight.

If you work decrease stitches, you will reduce the number of stitches in a row and so narrow the width of the crochet fabric. Working increase stitches will add more stitches to a row and widen the fabric. Decreasing and increasing will create sloped rather than straight sides on your fabric. The slope angle will depend on the type of stitches you work and how often you work them (every row, every other row, and so on) You can work shaping stitches at the start or end of a row, for one sloped side and one straight side. Or you can shape at both ends of a row for two sloped sides – great for triangles! Or combine increases and decreases to create more complex shapes, such as flowers and zigzags.

As well as flat shapes, you can use shaping stitches in the round, to create 3D shapes. This sort of shaping is vital for making amigurumi toys and accessories like hats or balls. The options are almost endless!

> *Decrease stitches will narrow the width of your crochet fabric*

THE RUNDOWN

DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES

Shaping stitches are very easy to do. Increasing just involves working two or more stitches into the same stitch on the row below. Decreasing involves working a combination of simple actions, which only deviate slightly from working the standard stitches that you've already learnt.

You can work increases and decreases in any stitch pattern, on right side or wrong side rows. Each type of decrease or increase technique has a specific name or abbreviation, so it's easy to understand in a pattern what you're being asked to do.

SLOPE IN OR OUT

When you practise working decrease and increase stitches, you'll see how the placement of shaping stitches will create a different effect in your fabric, making the left

Three to try! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your hook at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Crochet* magazine! To get the patterns from the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues by downloading the *Simply Crochet* app in the App Store, or to view on an Android device or a computer, find us on www.zinio.com/gb/simply-crochet-m6370. Every purchase is stored permanently in your magazine library. Once the magazine has been downloaded an internet connection is not required, so you craft whenever you like.

1 *Frill seeker!*
BEGINNER

Turn to page 39 to make this simple crochet embellishment. It will give you the perfect chance to practise increases and decreases. It's easy to make once you've learned the basic techniques.

2 *Shark attack!*
IMPROVER

A fab project from issue 87 of *Simply Crochet*, this fun shark pouffe will change up your décor or make a great gift for friends of all ages. It's worked in the round using simple increases and decreases.

3 *Top shape!*
EXPERT

With a bit of experience in shaping and joining, you'll be able to make your first garments, like this stylish cotton vest top by Annelies Baes. Find the pattern in issue 29.

or right side slope inwards or outwards. Your pattern should tell you where to place your shaping stitches to create the desired effect, with patterns like working on sleeves and shoulders for garments – or for designs that don't need to be this precise, you can try something new and experiment!

SHAPED MOTIFS

By working shaping stitches in the round, you can create all sorts of motifs. Fortunately, in crochet, the techniques for increasing and decreasing in rounds are exactly the same as in rows, so you'll only need to learn the techniques once.

EVEN SHAPING

Sometimes a pattern might ask you to increase or decrease a certain number of stitches 'evenly across the row or round'. To do this, take your stitch count (such as 50) and divide by the number of stitches you need to increase or decrease (such as 5). This comes to 10. To make the shaping even, you would work the first shaping stitch after 5 stitches, then another shaping stitch every 10 stitches, so that the last shaping stitch is worked 5 stitches from the end, for an even look across your row.

If all this sounds a bit complicated, don't worry – just follow our step-by-step guides to learn each shaping stitch and practise crocheting them for yourself. Experiment to see the different effects they create and you'll soon get the hang of it. Turn over to start learning how to use shaping now!

INCREASE

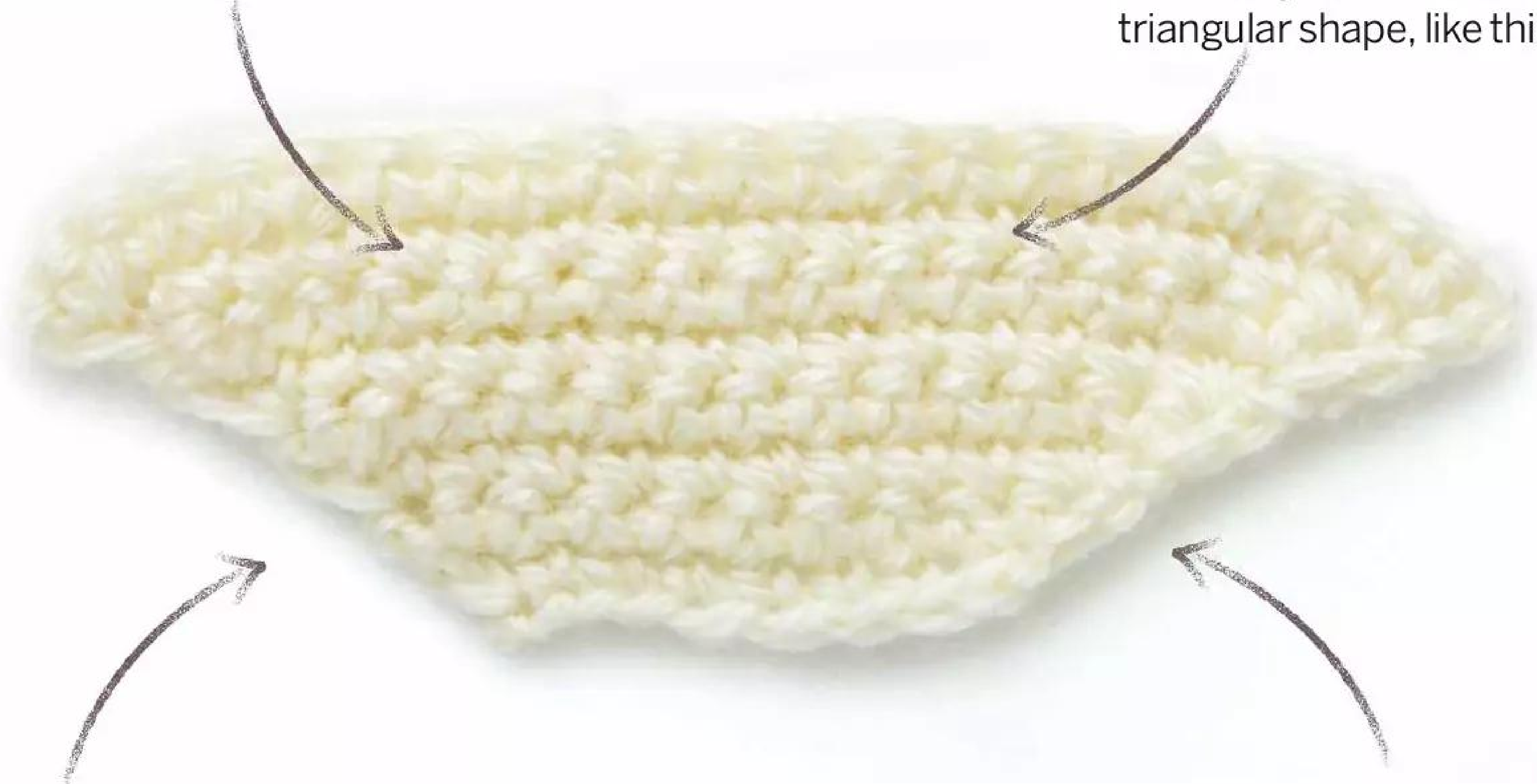
Vital for shaping your fabric...

LEARN THE LINGO

In a pattern, a simple increase of one double crochet stitch will be shown as '2dc in next stitch'. A larger increase of two stitches will be shown as '3dc in next stitch' and so on.

SLOPING SIDES

If you increase at both ends of a row, you'll widen the fabric on both sides and create outward-sloping sides. If you do this in double crochet on both sides, you can create a triangular shape, like this.



END OF ROW

If you're increasing at the end of the row, you will affect the outward slope of the left-hand side of the finished fabric.

START OF ROW

If you're increasing at the start of the row, you will affect the outward slope of the right-hand side of the finished fabric.

SHAPING AND TURNING CHAINS

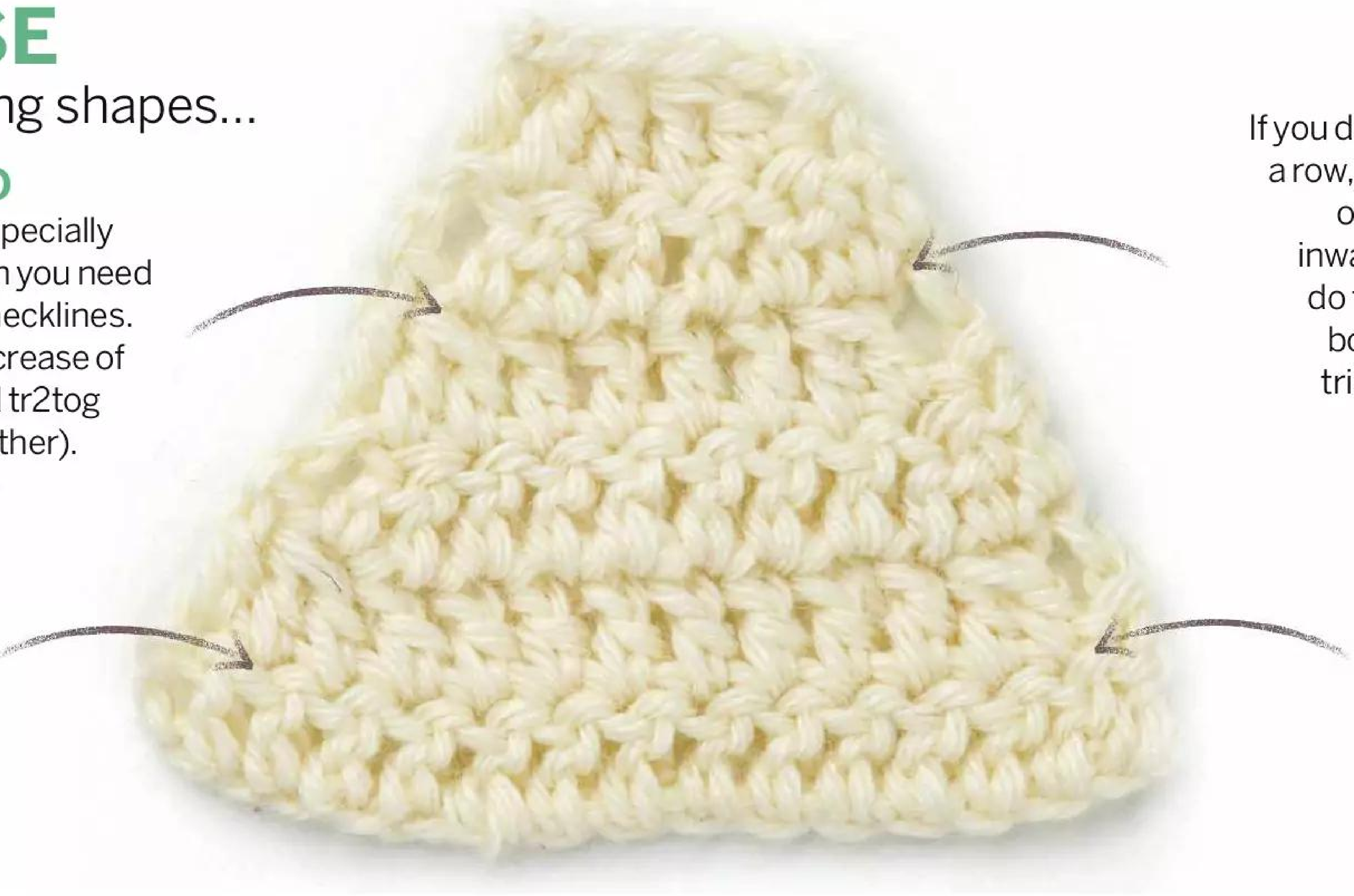
Once you start shaping, you might wonder what to do with the turning chain when you're increasing or decreasing. Unless your pattern instructs you otherwise, at the start of the row, work the turning chain as usual and then increase in the first stitch you'd usually work into, or decrease over the first two stitches you'd usually work. At the end of a row in treble crochet, it's neater to work a plain treble stitch into the top of the t-ch, so always work your increases or decreases right before the last stitch.

DECREASE

Create interesting shapes...

LEARN THE LINGO

Decrease stitches are especially useful in garments, when you need to shape armholes and necklines. In a pattern, a simple decrease of one treble stitch is called tr2tog (treble two stitches together). A larger decrease of two stitches is called tr3tog.



END OF ROW

If you're decreasing at the end of the row, you will affect the inward slope of the left-hand side of the finished fabric.

SLOPING SIDES

If you decrease at both ends of a row, you'll narrow the fabric on both sides and create inward-sloping sides. If you do this in treble crochet on both sides, you'll create a triangular shape, like this.

START OF ROW

If you're decreasing at the start of the row, you will affect the inward slope of the right-hand side of the finished fabric.

DOUBLE CROCHET INCREASES

Here's our guide to working simple increases

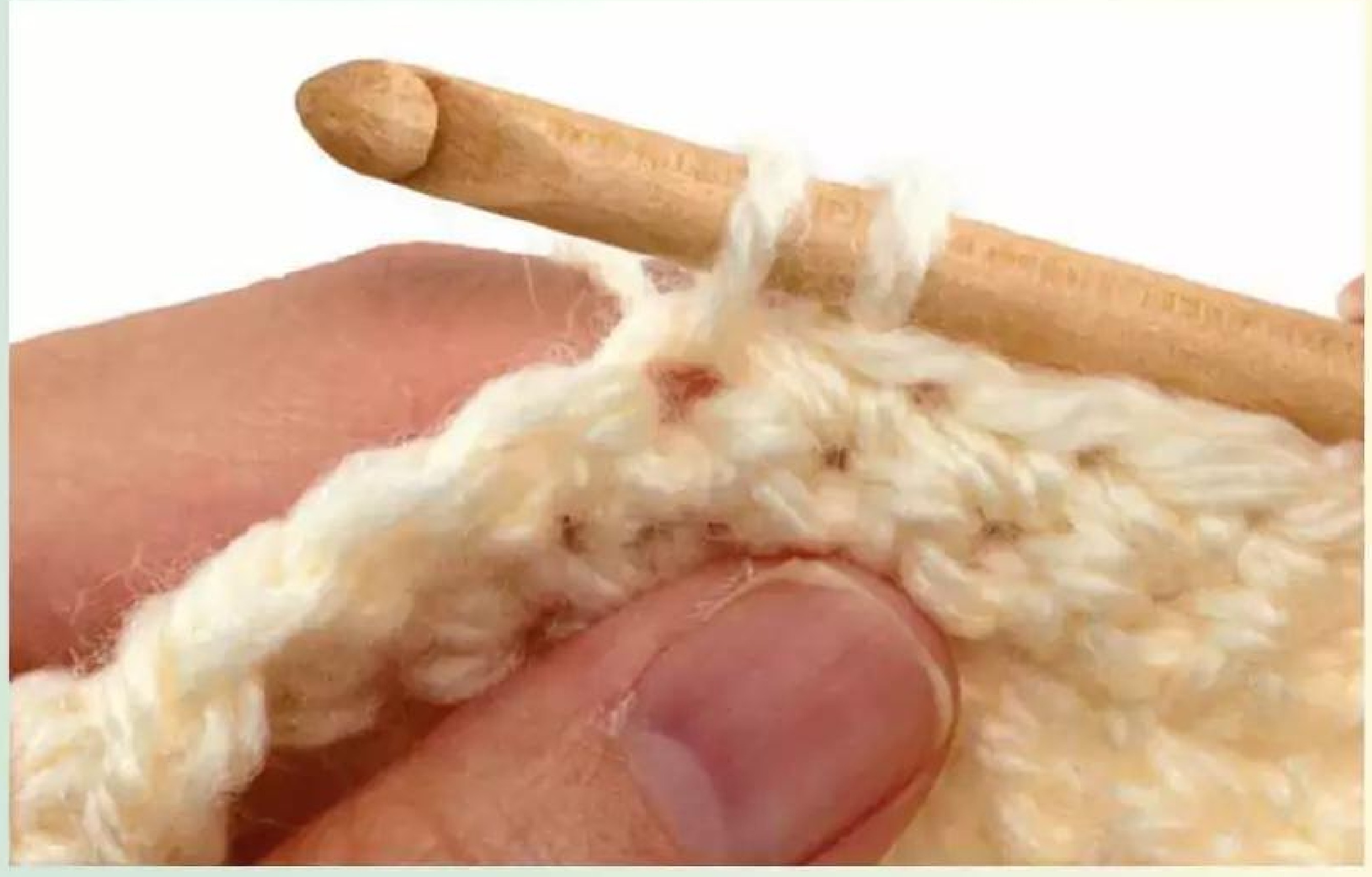
Working increases in crochet is very easy. There are no special techniques to learn, you just work more than one stitch into the top of the stitch on the row below.

To increase one double crochet stitch in a row, just work two double crochet stitches into the same stitch on the row below, as instructed in your pattern. This will increase the stitch count by one. To increase the stitch count by two, you'd work three double crochet stitches into the one stitch, and so on.

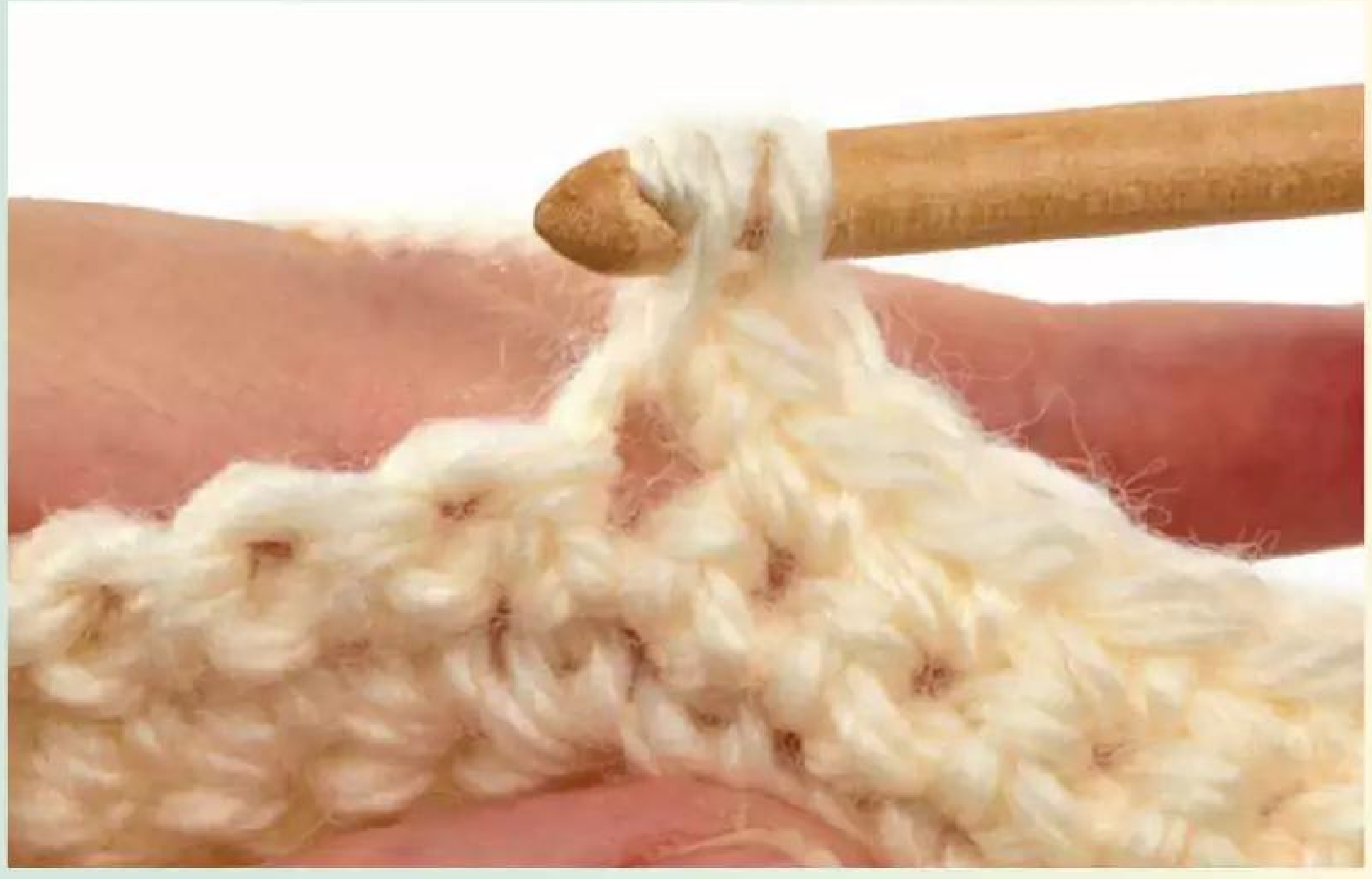
You can work an increase anywhere along the row, but working it in the centre of the row will make your crochet fabric look different to increasing at the start or end of a row. Similarly, increases worked on every row create a different effect to working them on every other row.

Make a small double crochet swatch and practise making increases at various points on the row, so you can start to see the shaping effects.

RIGHT-HAND

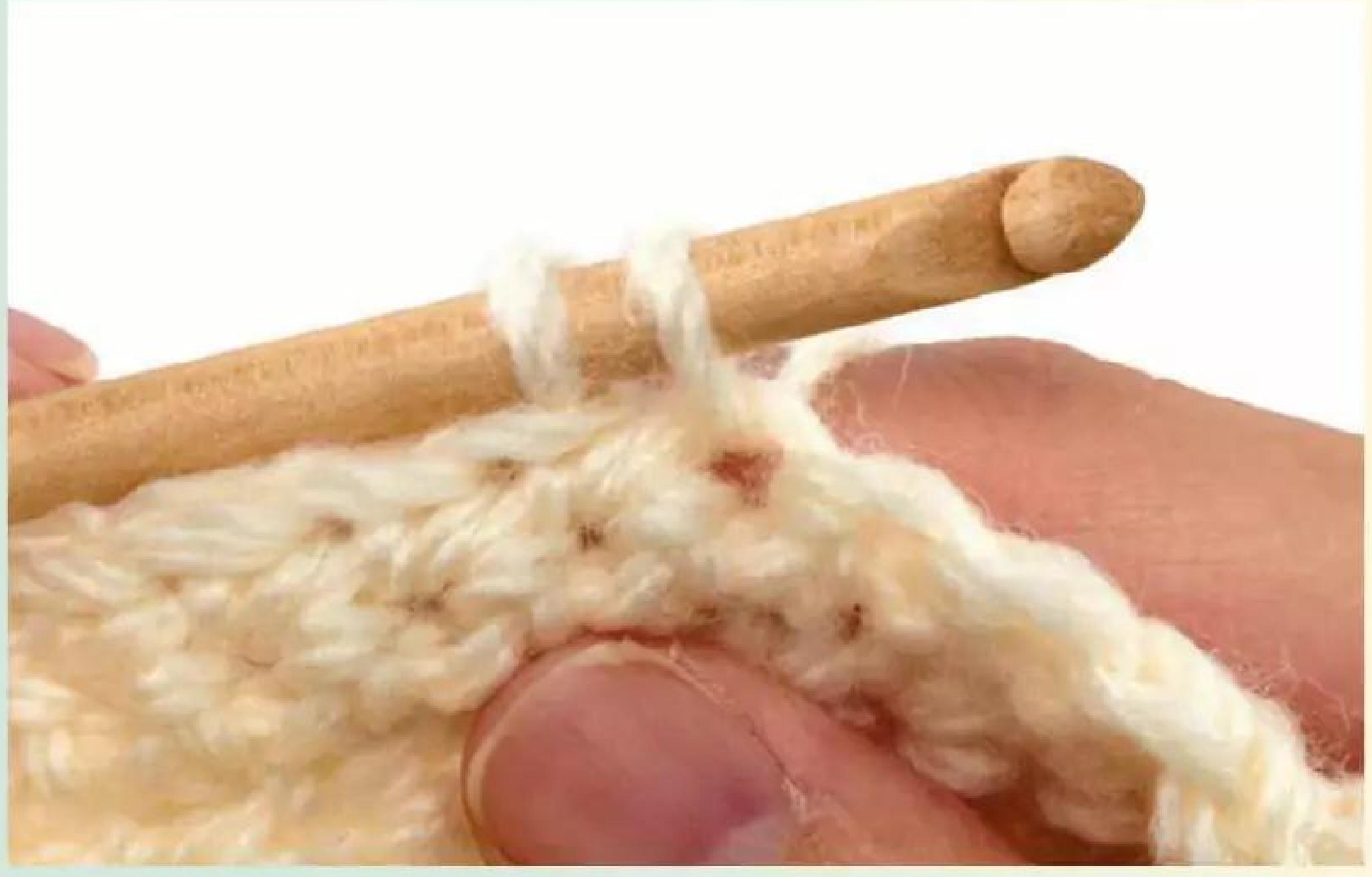


1 Work a double crochet stitch as usual: insert hook into the top of the next stitch on the row below, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops on hook.

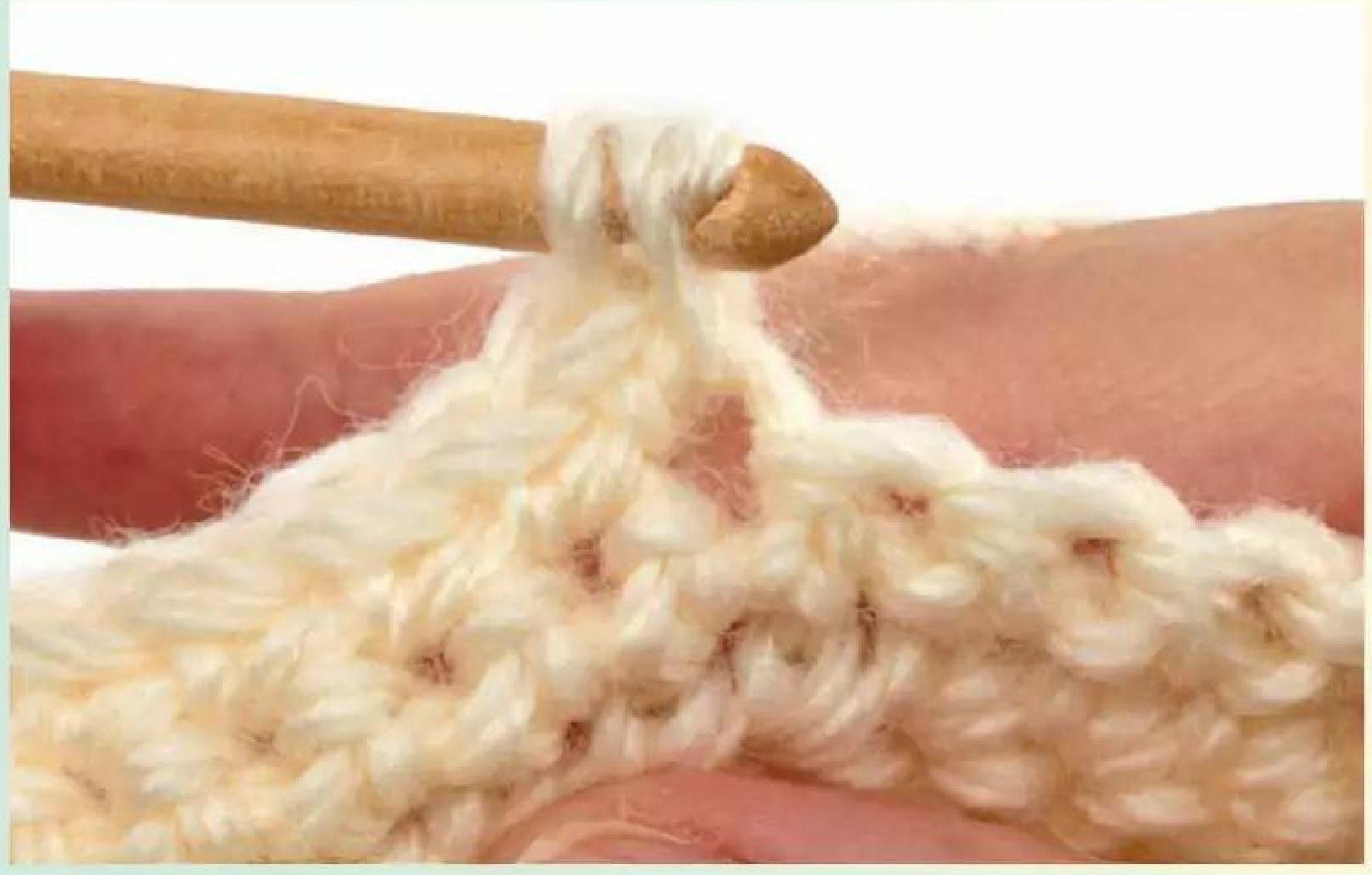


2 Work a second double crochet stitch into the same stitch on the row below: insert hook, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. You will have increased the stitch count by one.

LEFT-HAND



1 Work a double crochet stitch as usual: insert hook into the top of the next stitch on the row below, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops on hook.



2 Work a second double crochet stitch into the same stitch on the row below: insert hook, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. You will have increased the stitch count by one.

TREBLE INCREASES

Increases in treble crochet are just as easy!

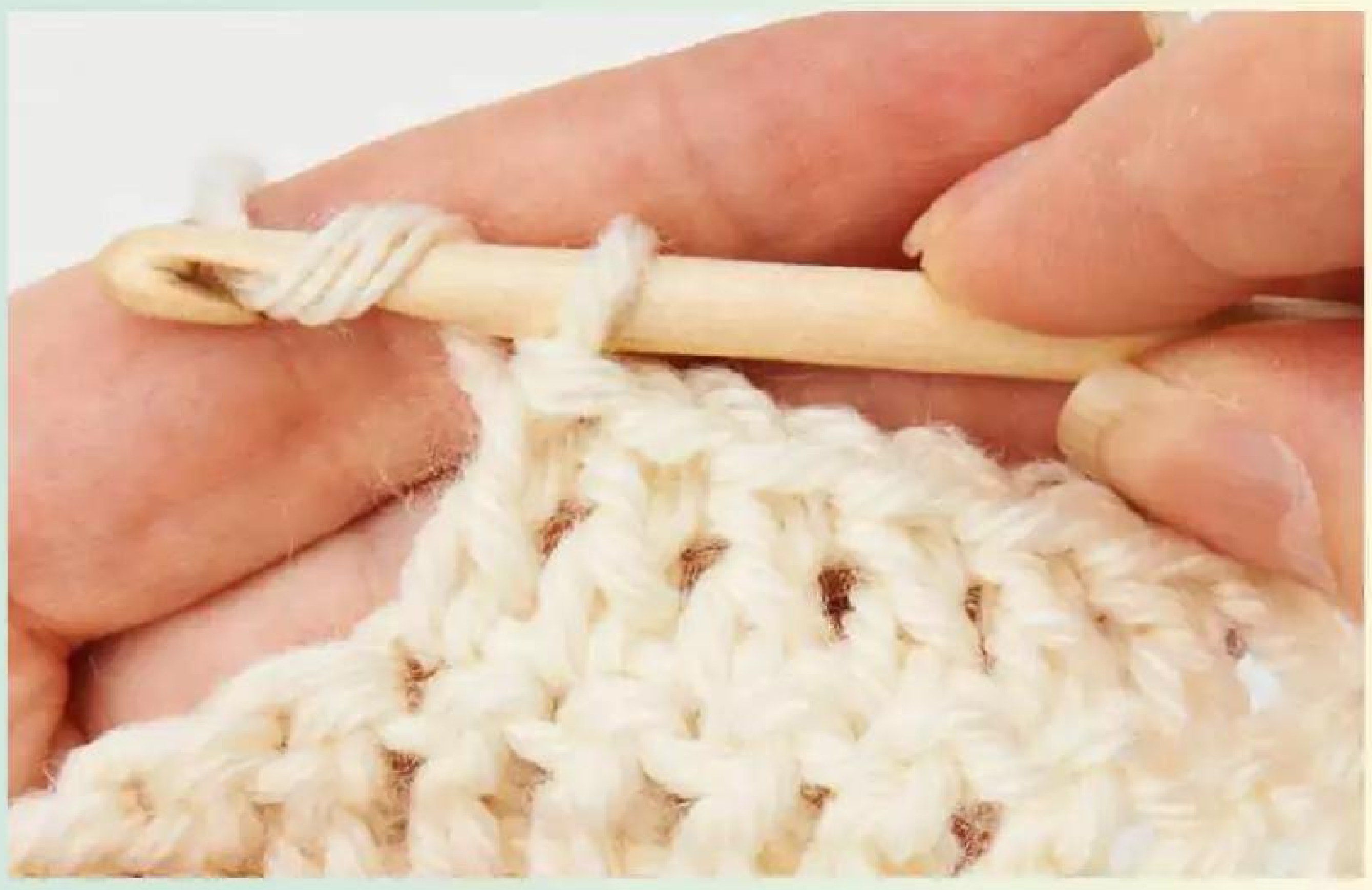
Treble crochet increases are worked in the same sort of way as double crochet increases. You just work two or more treble stitches into the top of the same stitch on the row below.

To increase one treble stitch in a row, work two trebles into the same stitch, or work more trebles as instructed in your pattern. To increase by two stitches, work three trebles into the same stitch, and so on for more increases.

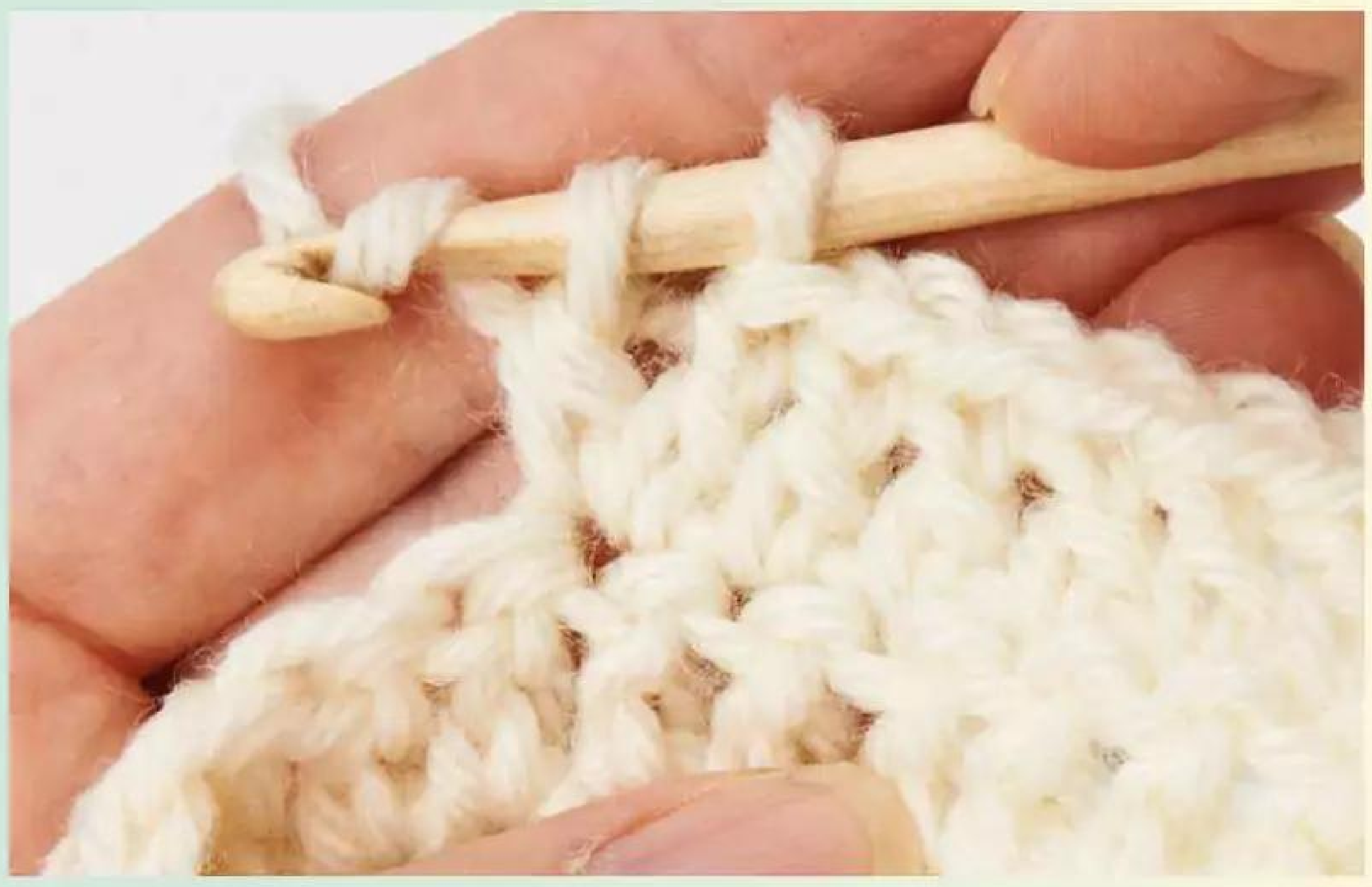
You can work the increase anywhere along the row, but working it in the centre of the row will create a different effect to increasing at the start or end of the row. Similarly, increases worked on every row will create a different effect to increases worked on every other row.

Make a small treble swatch and practise increasing at various points on the row, to see the shaping effects. If you're increasing at a specific point on every row, or several points, use one or more stitch markers to help you mark these points.

RIGHT-HAND

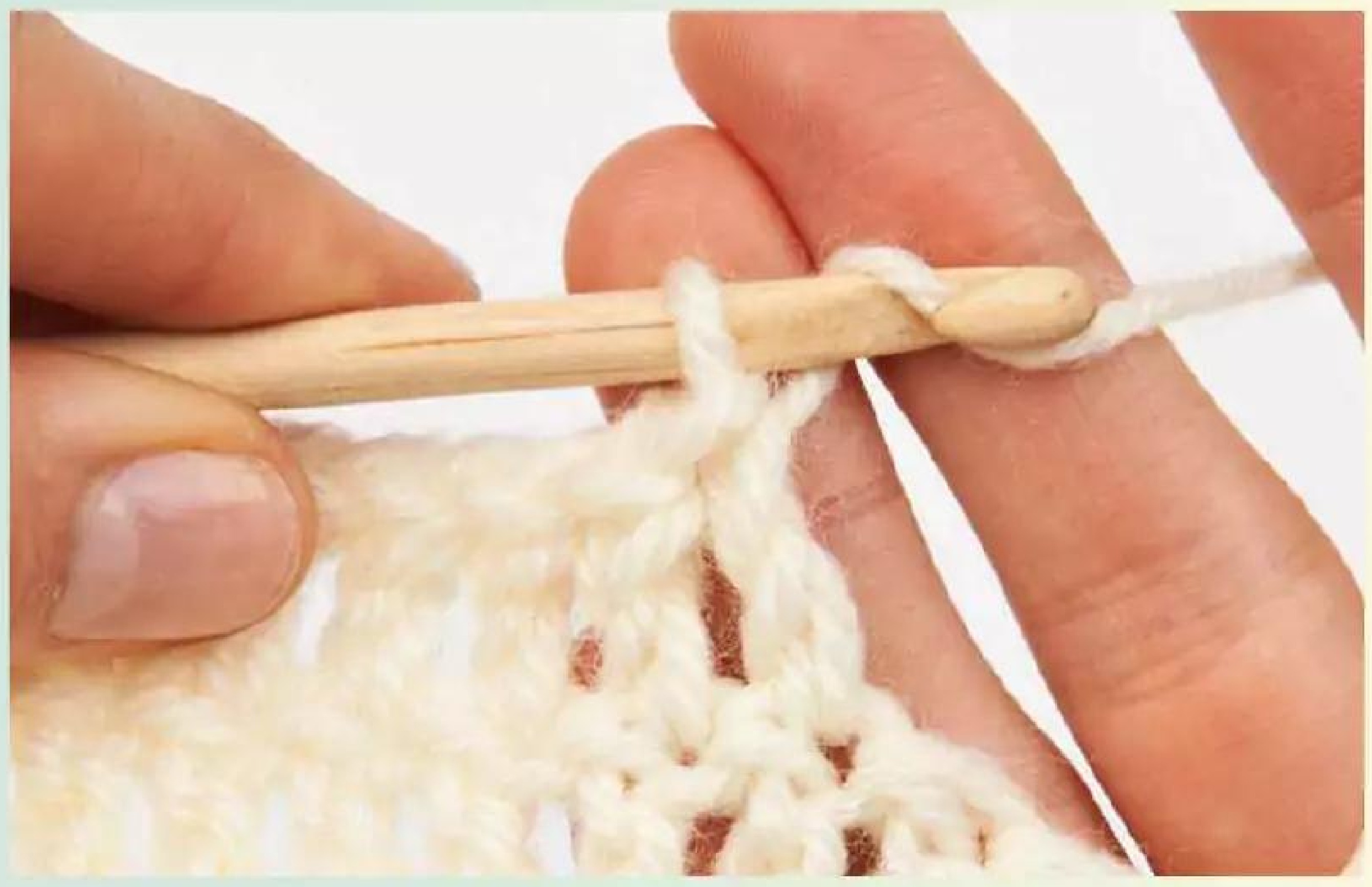


1 Work a treble crochet stitch as usual: yrh, insert hook into the top of the next stitch on the row below, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops on hook, yrh, pull yarn through remaining loops on hook.

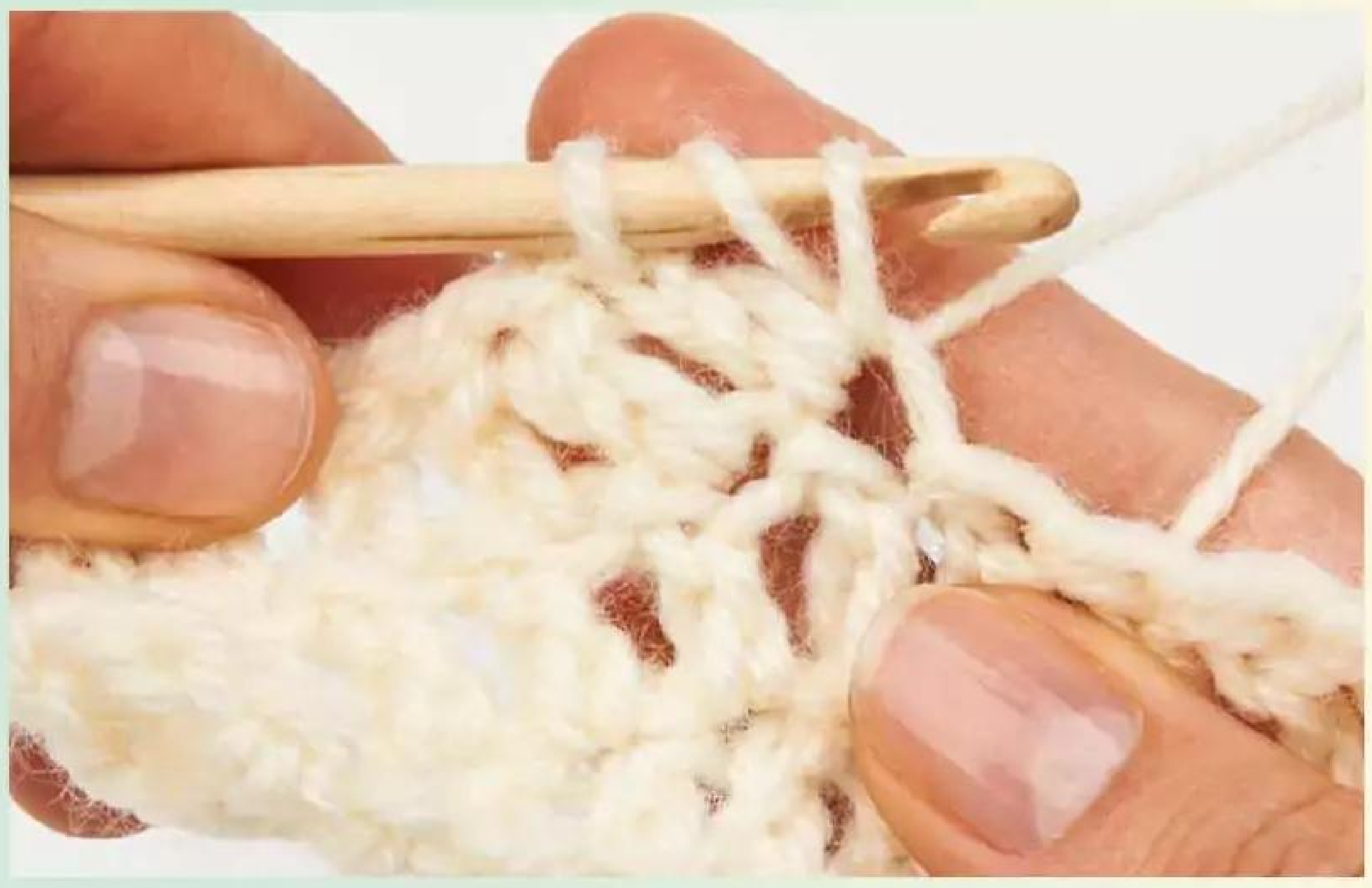


2 Work a second treble stitch into the same stitch on the row below: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through rem loops. You've increased the stitch count by one.

LEFT-HAND



1 Work a treble crochet stitch as usual: yrh, insert hook into the top of the next stitch on the row below, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops on hook, yrh, pull yarn through remaining loops on hook.



2 Work a second treble stitch into the same stitch on the row below: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through rem loops. You've increased the stitch count by one.

DOUBLE CROCHET DECREASE

Here's how to decrease one double crochet stitch in a row

Working double crochet decreases is just as easy as working increases. There are two main methods.

Some patterns use the quick decrease method, where you'll be instructed to 'skip a stitch' – this means you need to leave the next stitch unworked, while you proceed to work into the following stitch. This quick method works well, but it will leave a small hole in the fabric – if that's the effect you want, that's fine.

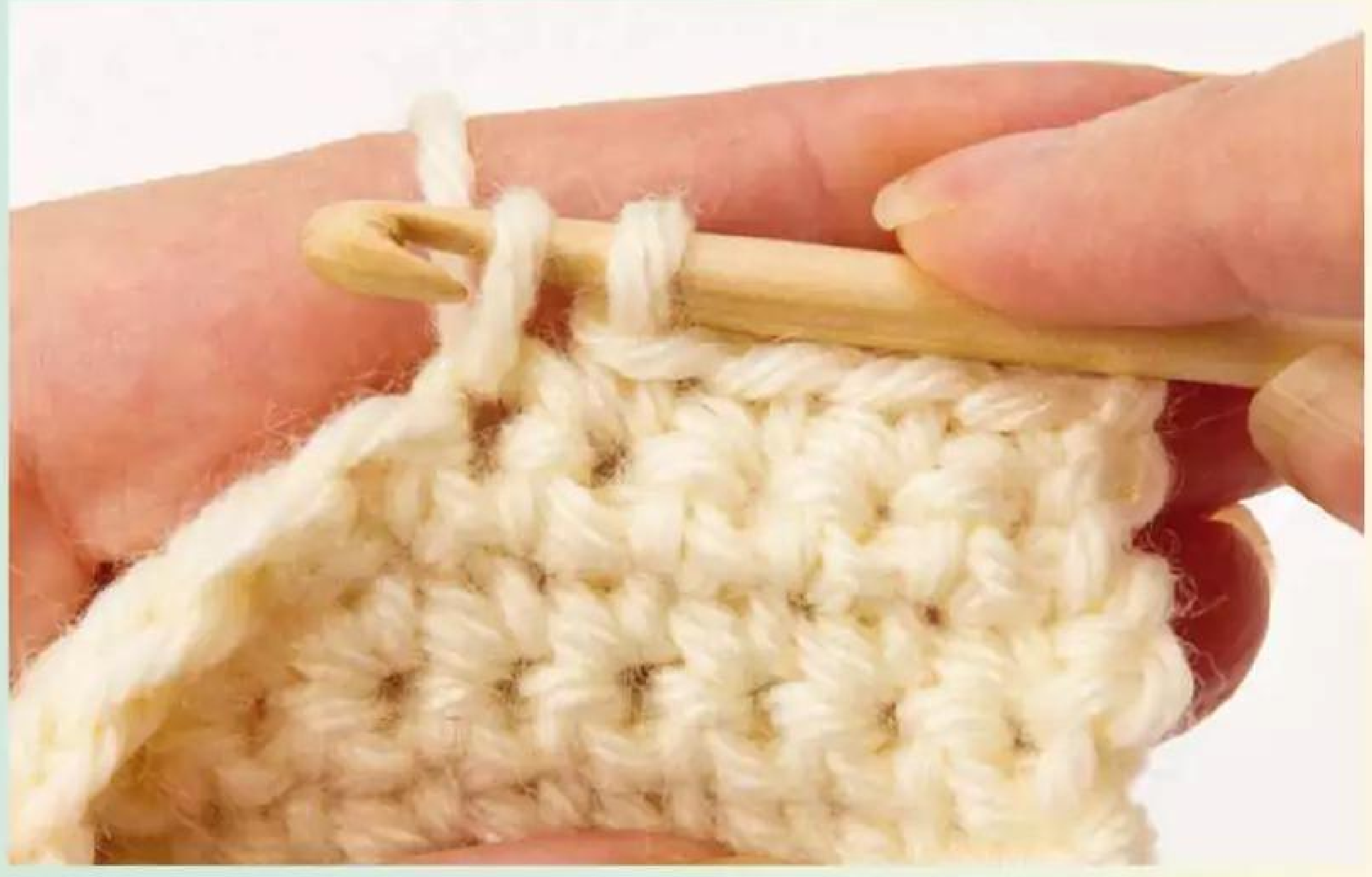
If you want a solid fabric, however, you'll need to work a decrease that's usually called dc2tog in patterns (shown below).

Working either of these methods once in a row will reduce your stitch count by one. You can decrease at any point along the row, but you'll create different effects by working decreases in the centre of the row, or at the start or end of the row.

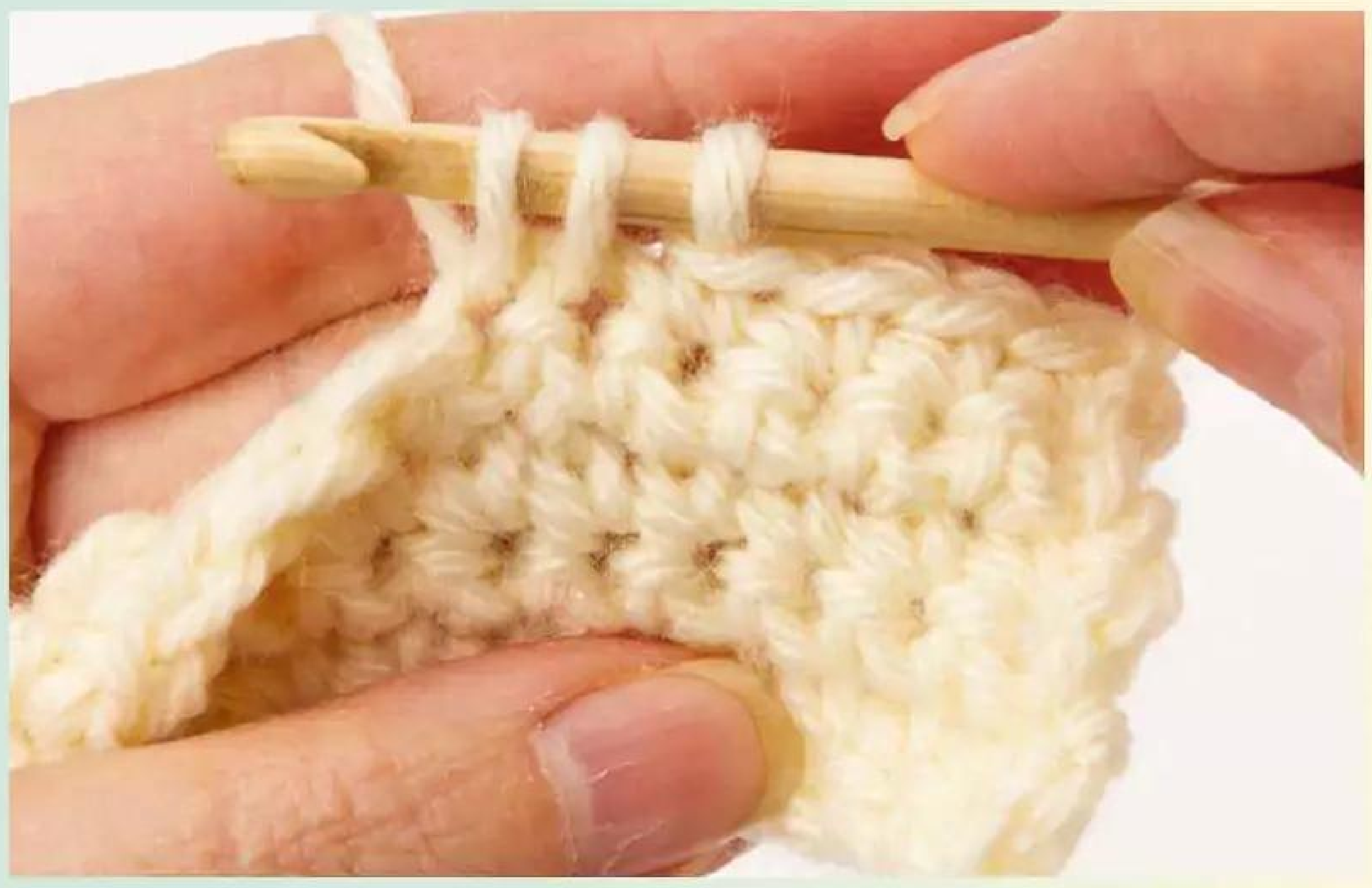
You can practise decreasing on a small swatch of dc fabric so you can see how the decreases will affect your pattern.

RIGHT-HAND

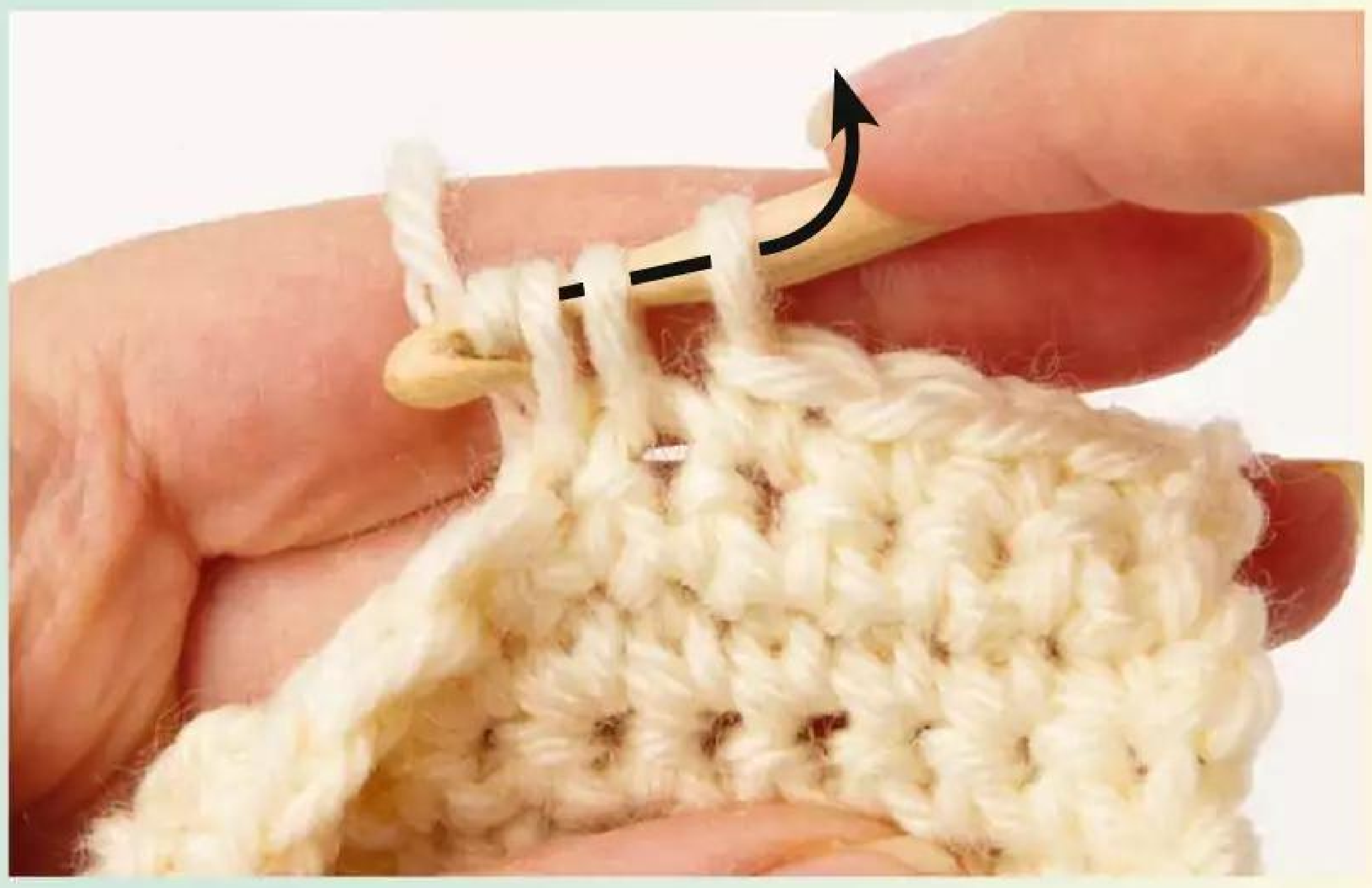
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect dc2tog...



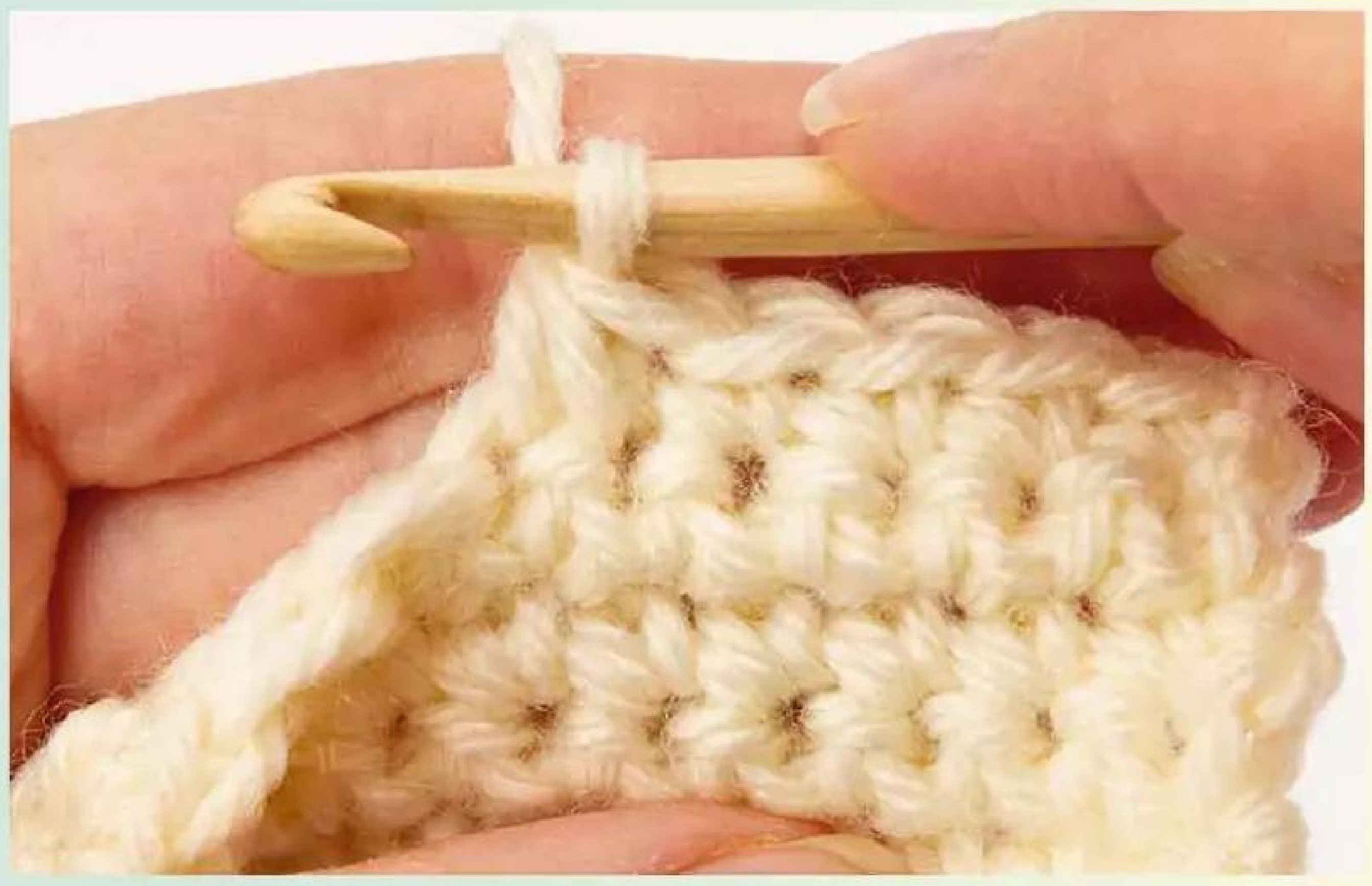
1 Start by inserting the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row. Begin to work a double crochet stitch in the usual way, working yrh and pull loop through (2 loops on hook)



2 Without finishing the first dc, begin the next dc by inserting the hook in the next stitch on the previous row. Again, work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook).



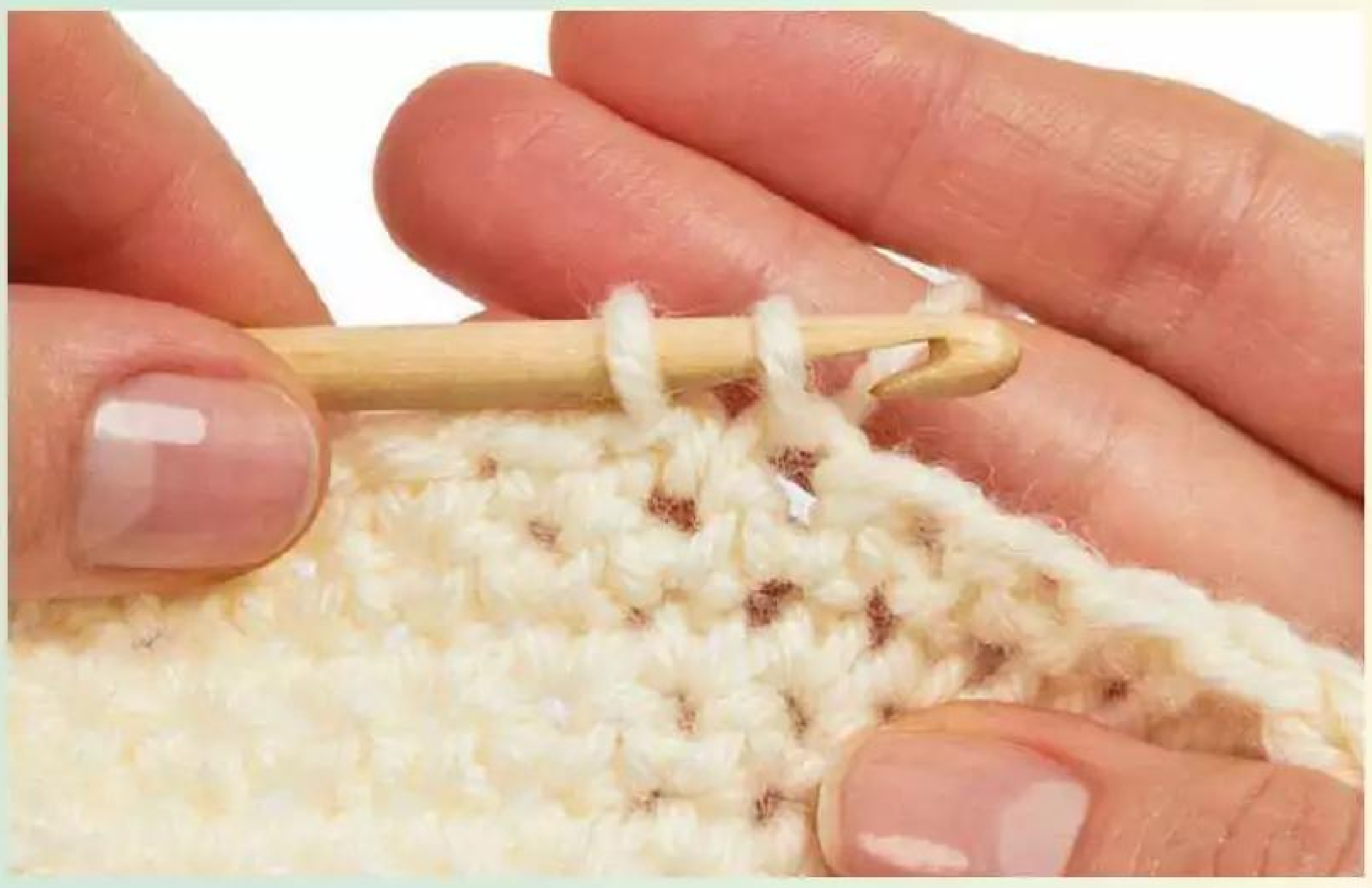
3 Now complete both dc stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all 3 loops on the hook.



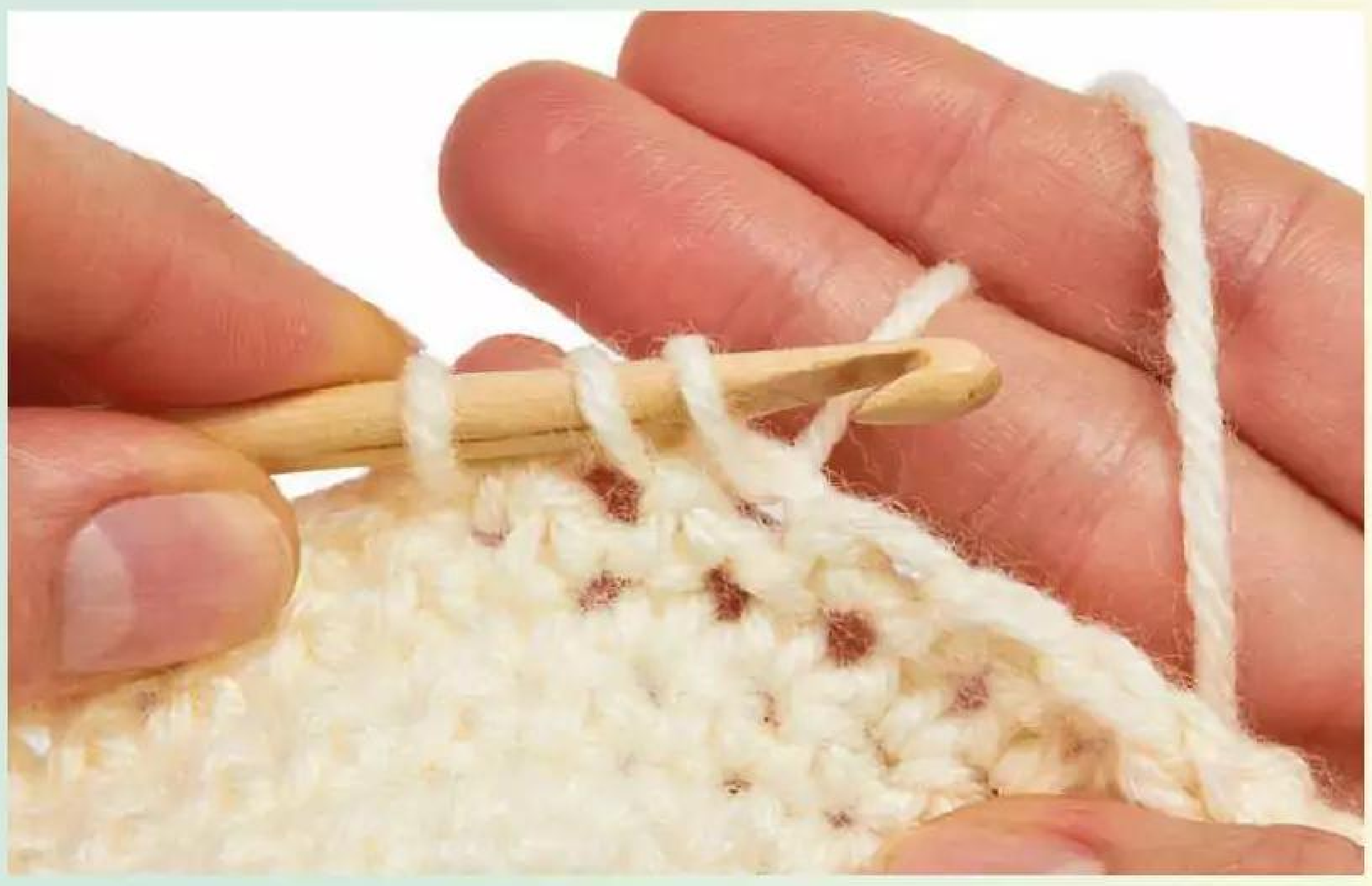
4 Your finished dc2tog should look like this. You will have decreased one stitch. On subsequent rows, you can work a stitch into the top of the dc2tog stitch, as usual.

LEFT-HAND

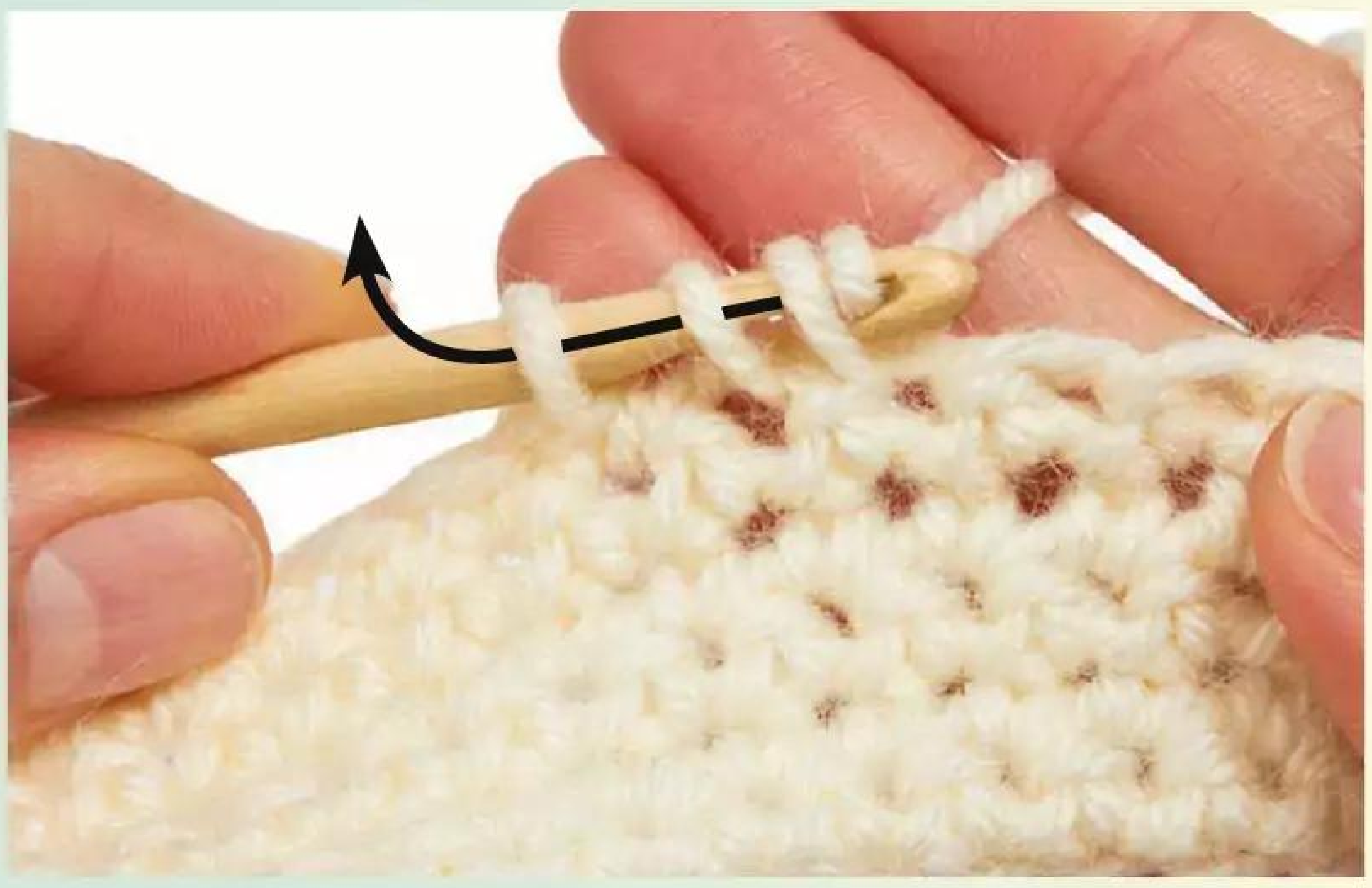
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect dc2tog...



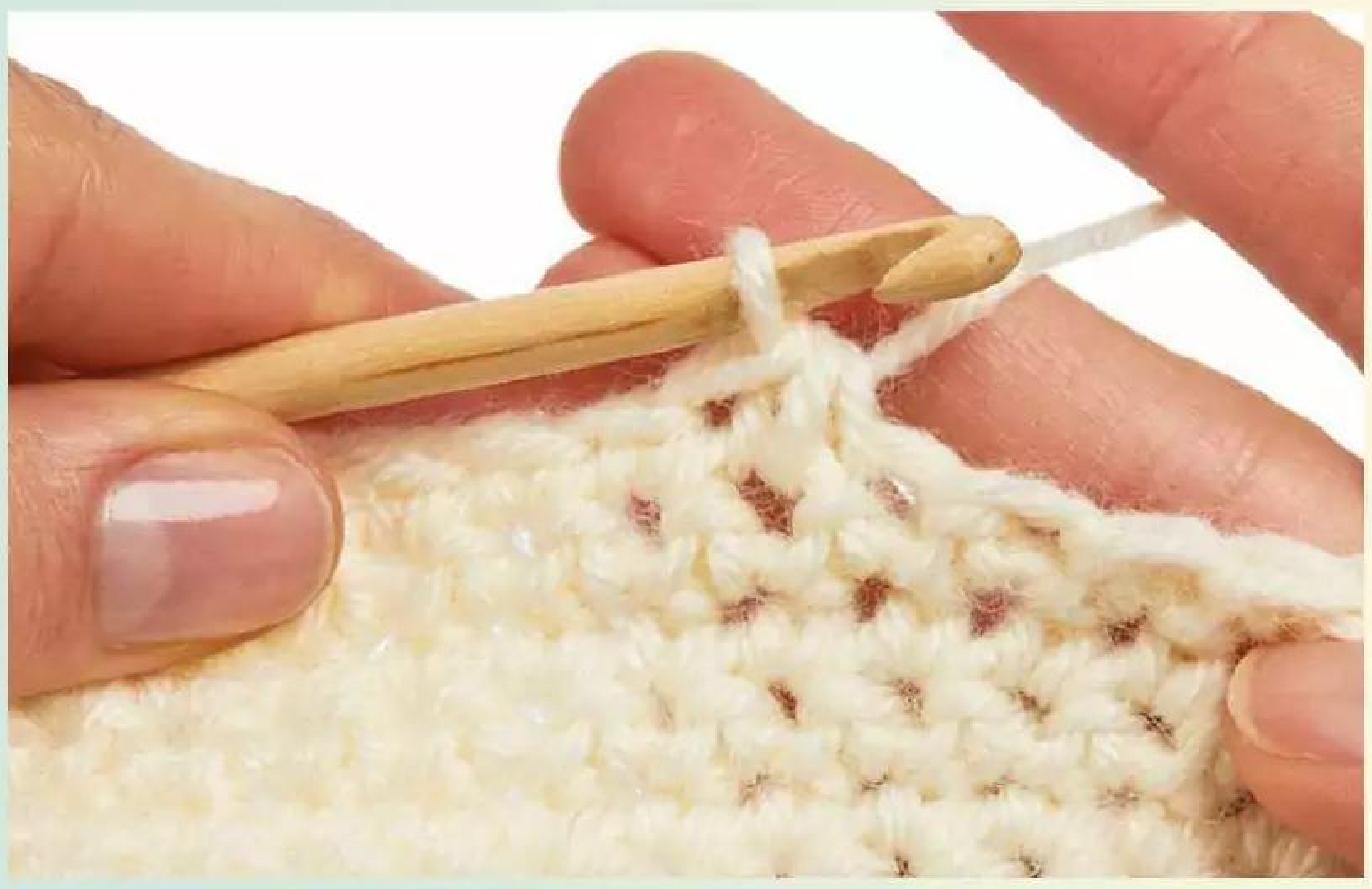
1 Start by inserting the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row. Begin to work a double crochet stitch in the usual way, working yrh and pull loop through (2 loops on hook)



2 Without finishing the first dc, begin the next dc by inserting the hook in the next stitch on the previous row. Again, work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook).



3 Now complete both dc stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all 3 loops on the hook.



4 Your finished dc2tog should look like this. You will have decreased one stitch. On subsequent rows, you can work a stitch into the top of the dc2tog stitch, as usual.

SHAPING AND TURNING CHAINS

Here's how to work increases or decreases when you're at the start of a row

When you're asked to work increases or decreases in your double crochet fabric at the start of a row, it can be confusing to know how to work these stitches in conjunction with the turning chain.

The general rule is that it's usually best to work the turning chain first, as usual. Then work the increase (two dc stitches) into the first stitch on the row below. Or work a dc2tog over the first two stitches on the row below. But you should always follow the instructions in your pattern.

DOUBLE CROCHET INCREASED FABRIC

DOUBLE CROCHET DECREASED FABRIC

LARGE DC DECREASES

How to create a two-stitch decrease, also called dc3tog

Once you know how to work dc2tog, it's easy to work a larger decrease, such as dc3tog (which means work three double crochet stitches together) to decrease by two stitches.

This sort of stitch is most often used in garments or amigurumi patterns, and it's a neat way to reduce your stitch count – it will result in a solid fabric, rather than leaving any holes.

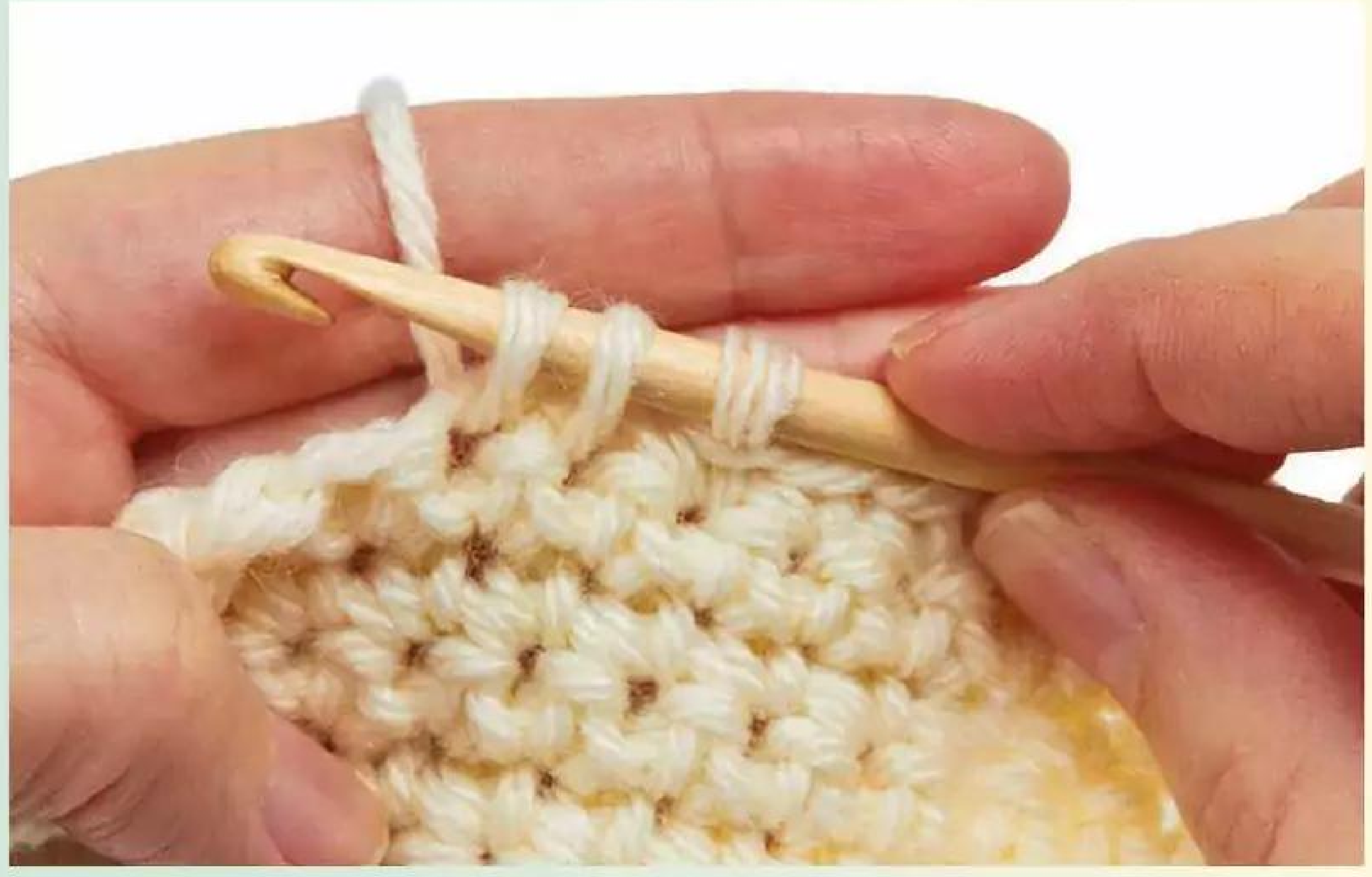
We've explained how to do the dc3tog stitch below, but we recommend that you get to grips with the dc2tog stitch first, before tackling the dc3tog. You'll find it much easier to work that way.

By working the dc3tog once in a row, you will reduce your stitch count by two. You can decrease at any point along the row, but you'll create different effects by working decreases in the centre of the row, or at the start or end of the row.

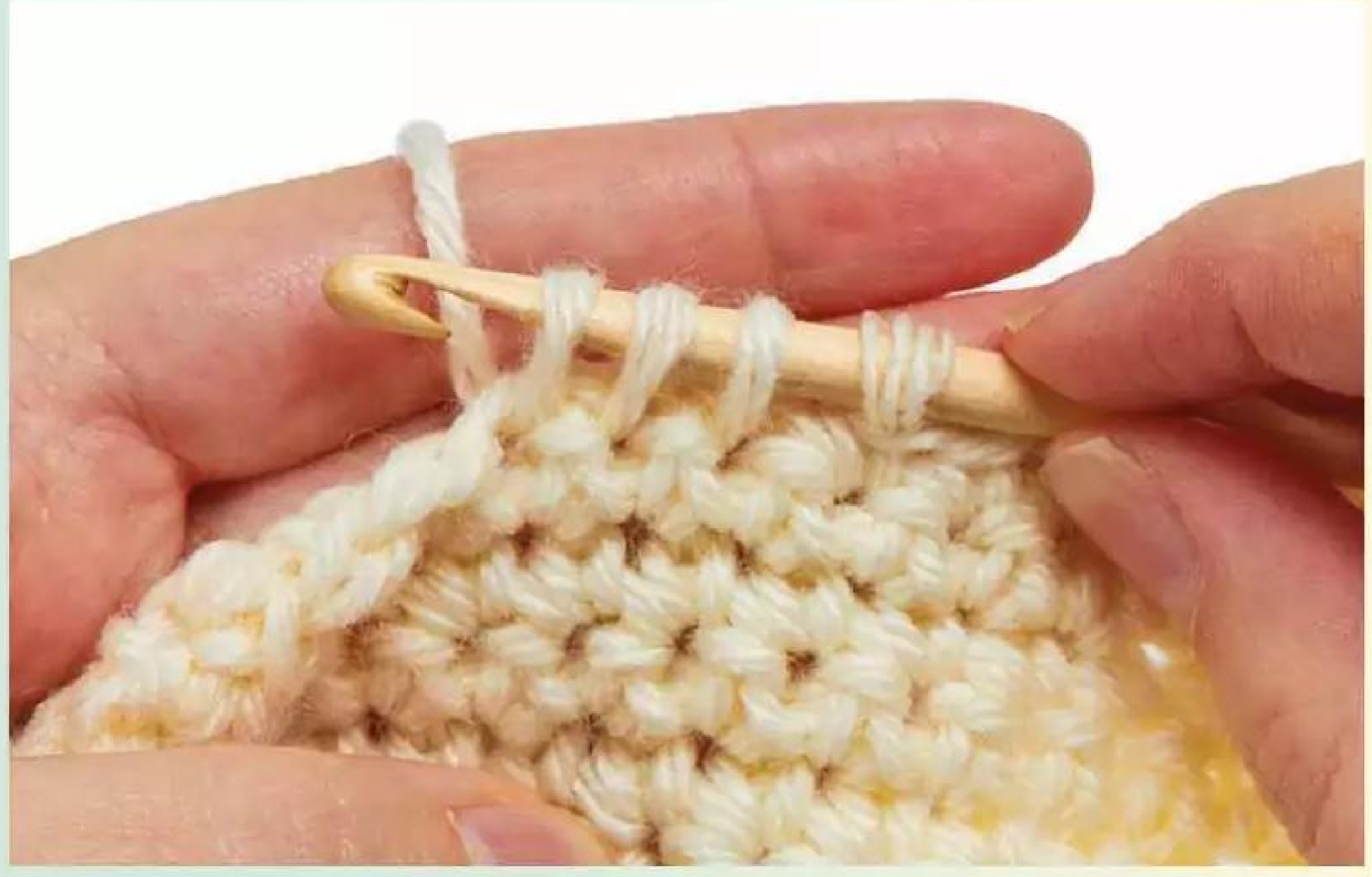
You can practise decreasing on a small swatch of dc fabric so you can see how the decreases will affect your pattern.

RIGHT-HAND

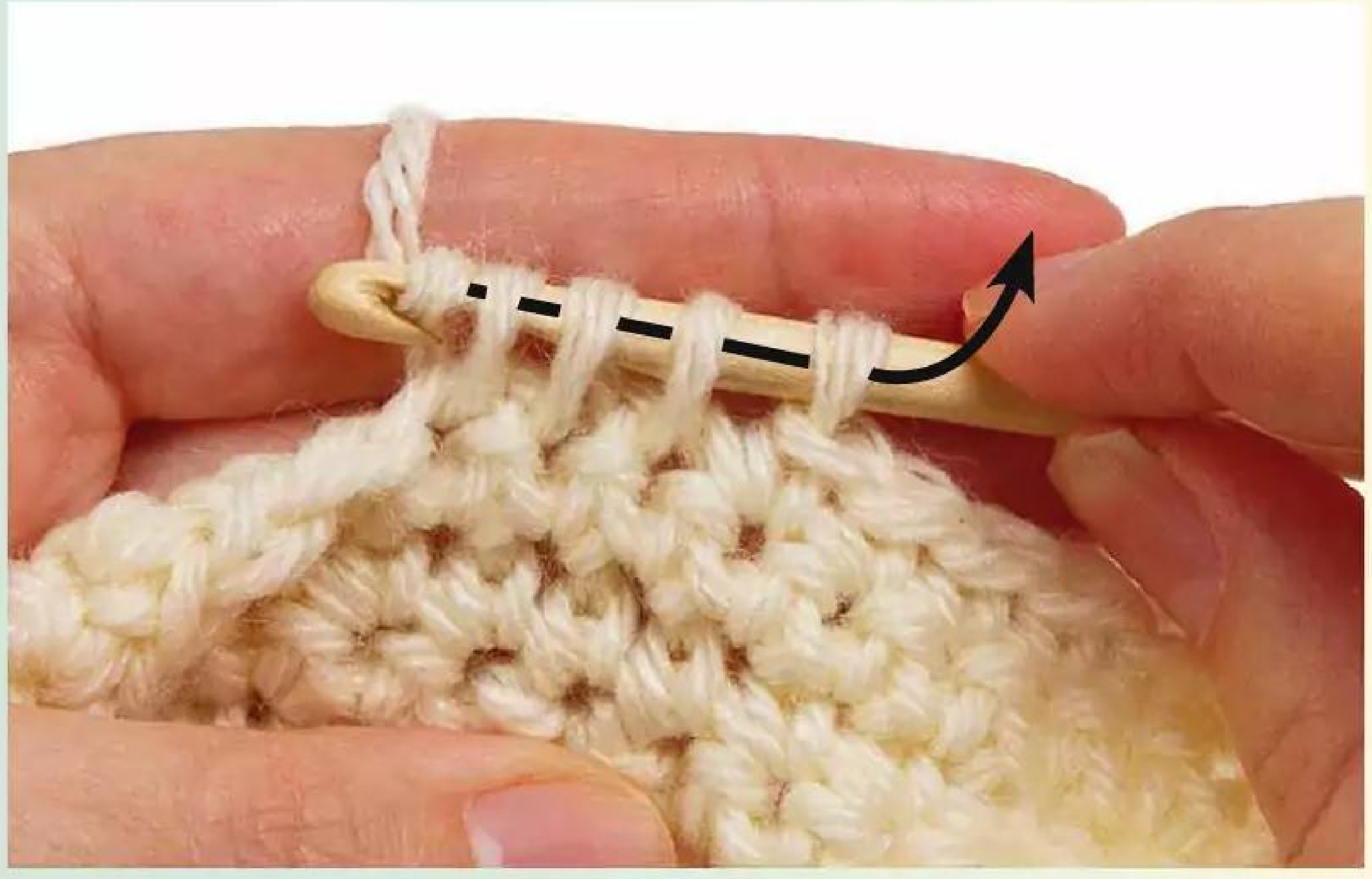
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to work a dc3tog...



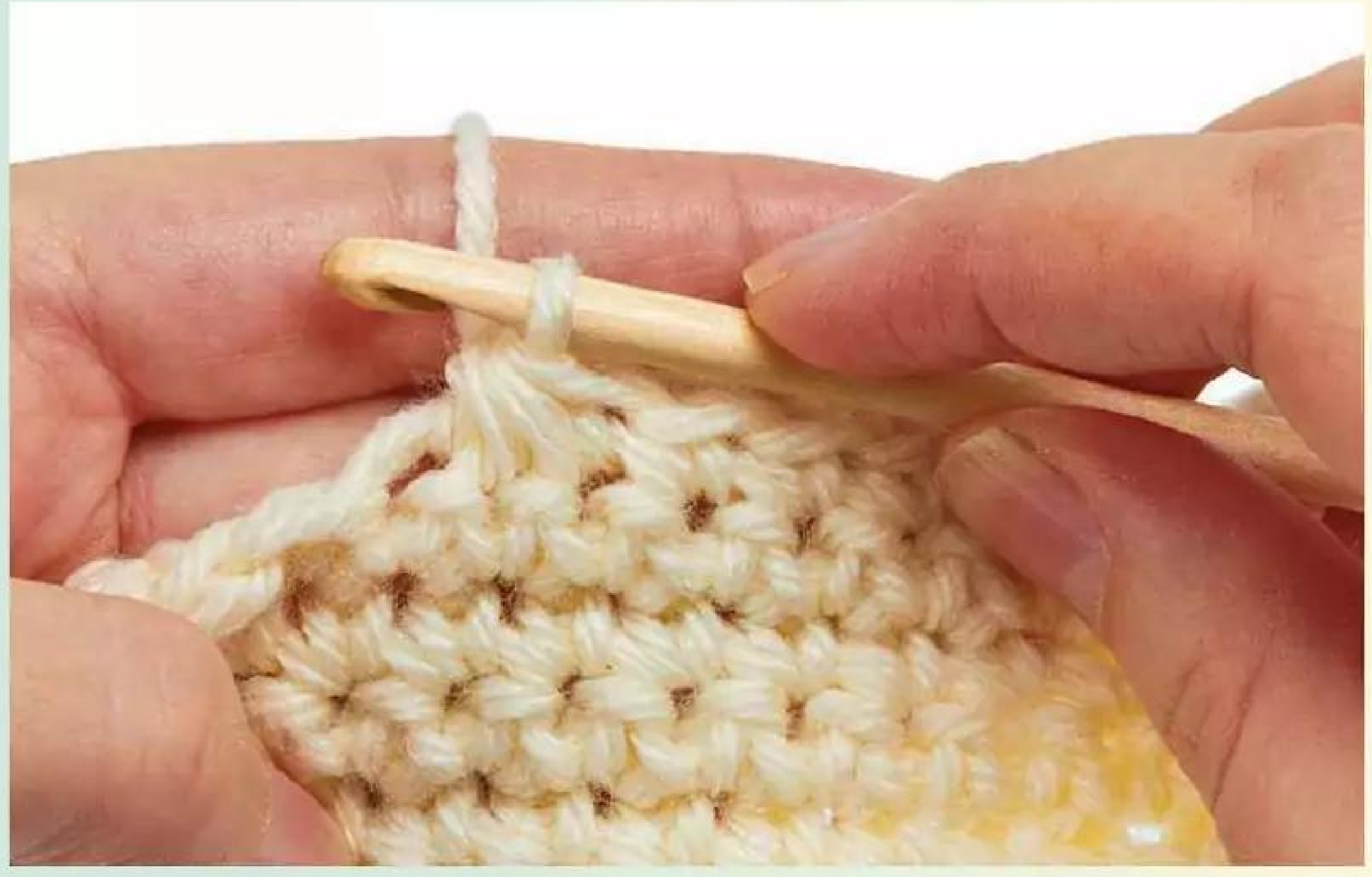
1 Start a dc stitch as usual: insert hook into top of next stitch, yrh, pull loop through (2 loops on hook). Stop here and start a 2nd dc in following stitch: insert hook, yrh, pull loop through (3 loops on hook). Stop here.



2 Without finishing the first or 2nd dc, begin a 3rd dc in the next stitch: insert hook, yrh, pull loop through (4 loops on hook). (If you're instructed to dc4tog, just start a 4th dc in the next stitch in the same way.)



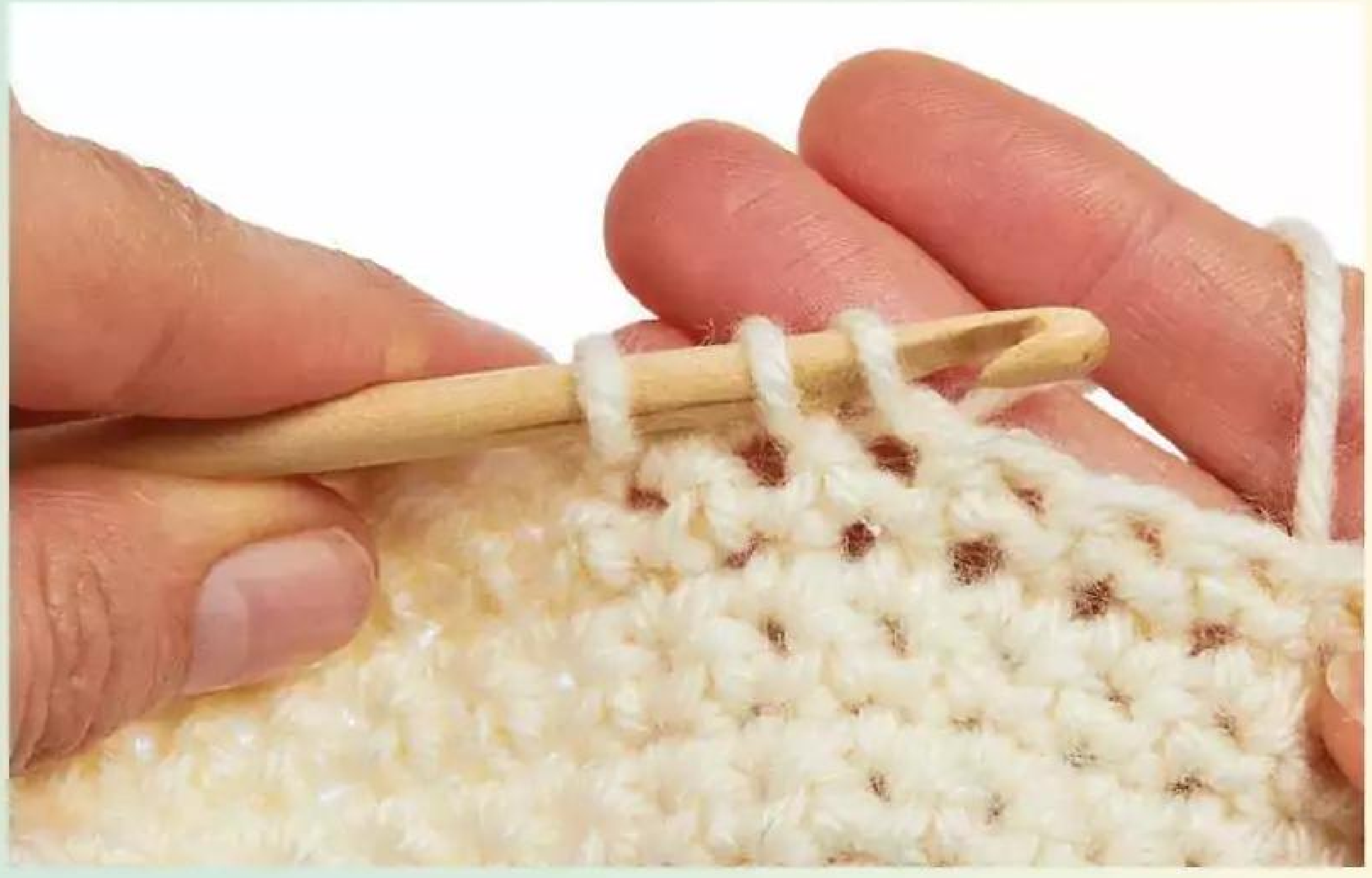
3 Now complete all the part-worked dc stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all the loops on the hook.



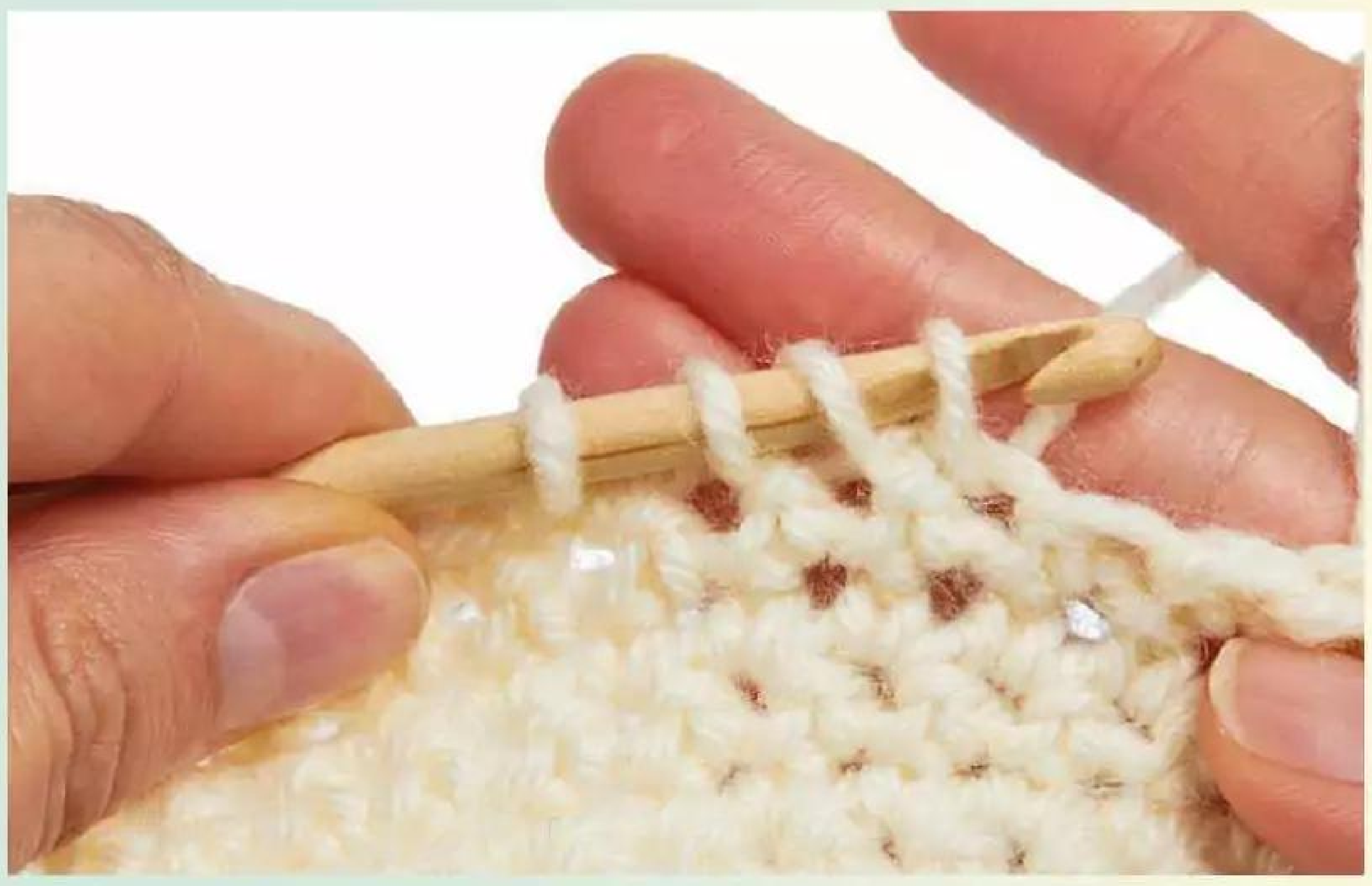
4 This is how your finished dc3tog should look. You will have decreased 2 stitches. On subsequent rows, just work a stitch into the top of the dc3tog stitch as usual.

LEFT-HAND

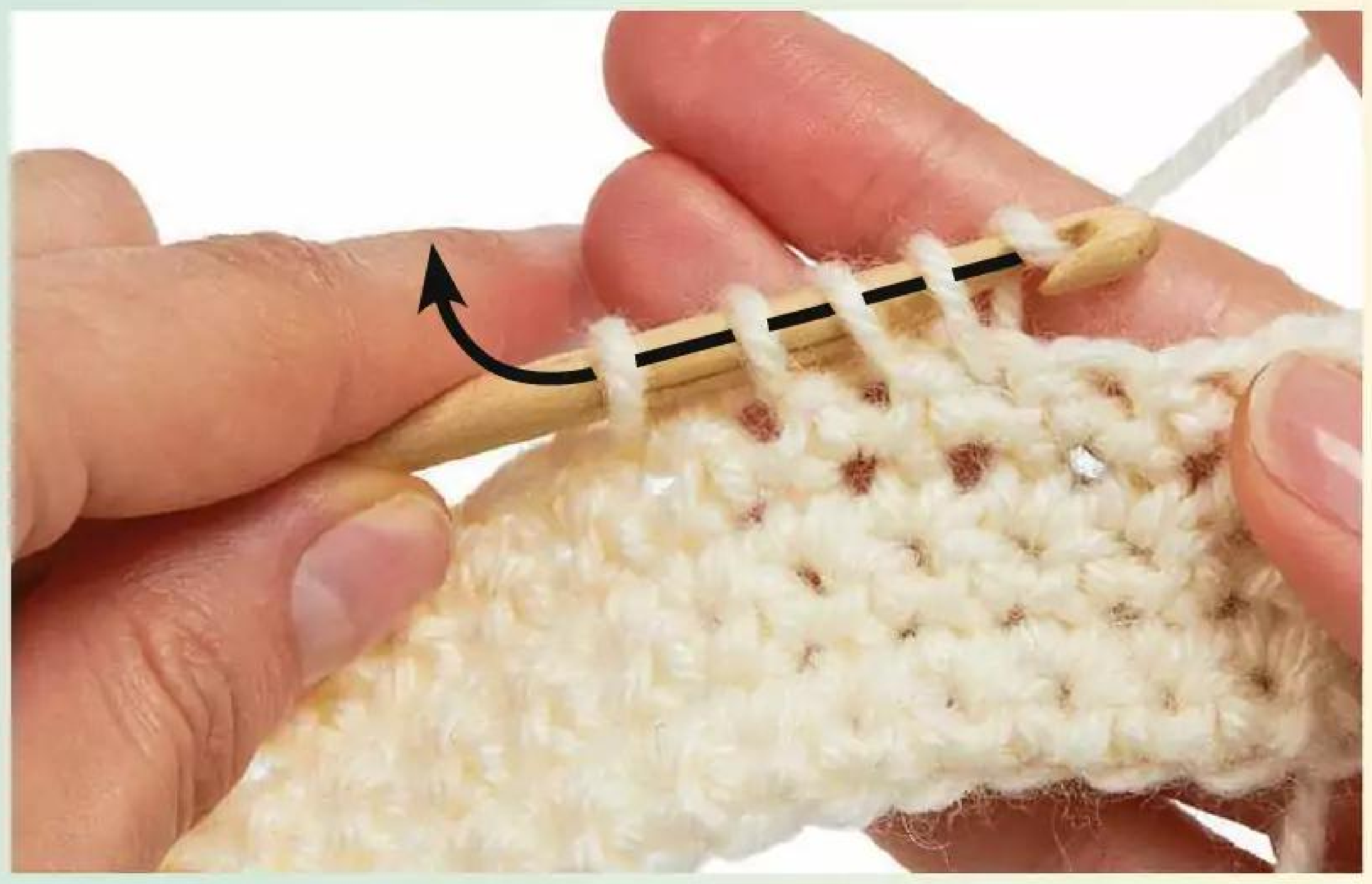
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to work a dc3tog…



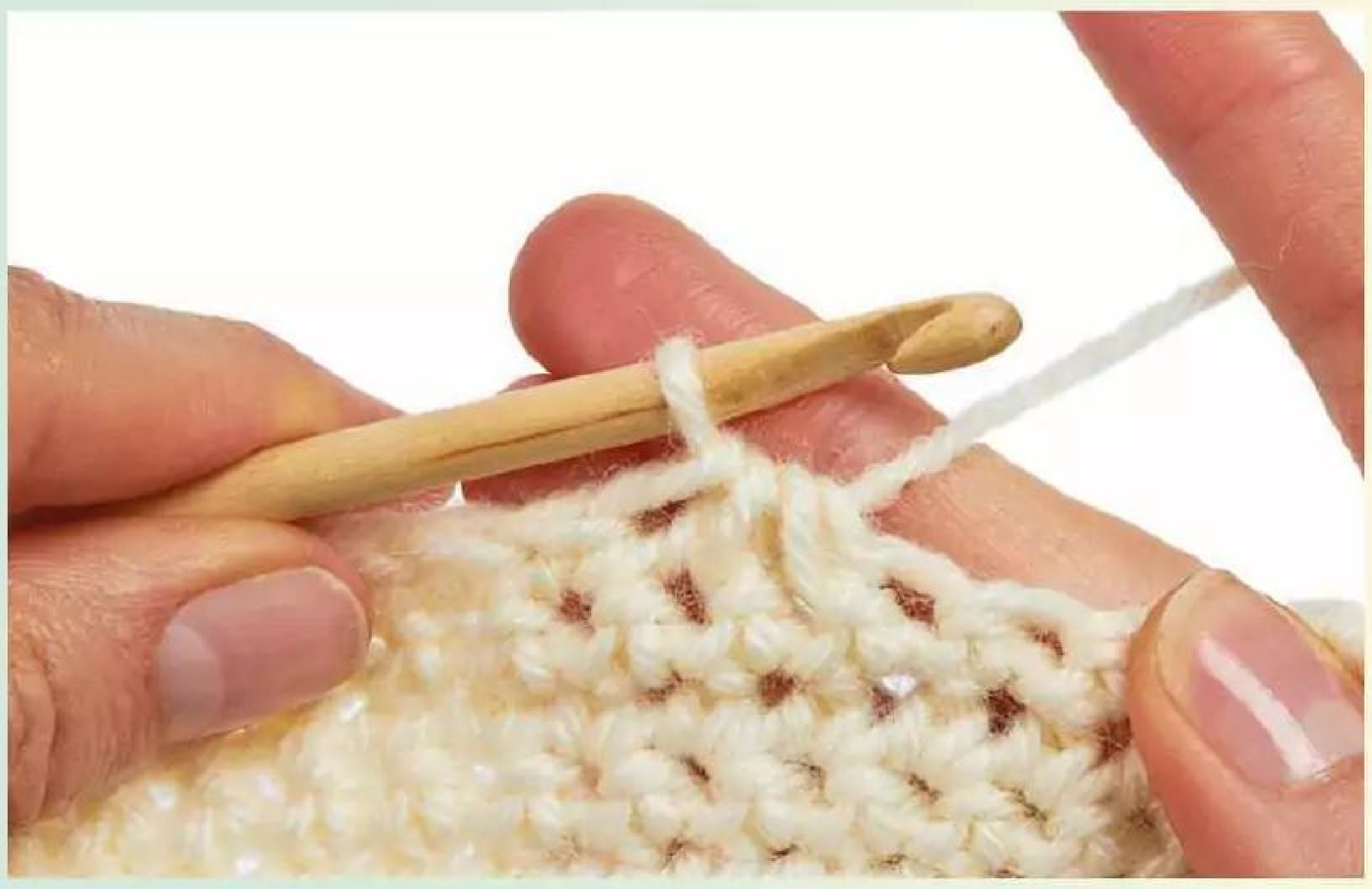
1 Start a dc stitch as usual: insert hook into top of next stitch, yrh, pull loop through (2 loops on hook). Stop here and start a 2nd dc in following stitch: insert hook, yrh, pull loop through (3 loops on hook). Stop here.



2 Without finishing the first or 2nd dc, begin a 3rd dc in the next stitch: insert hook, yrh, pull loop through (4 loops on hook). (If you're instructed to dc4tog, just start a 4th dc in the next stitch in the same way.)



3 Now complete all the part-worked dc stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all the loops on the hook.

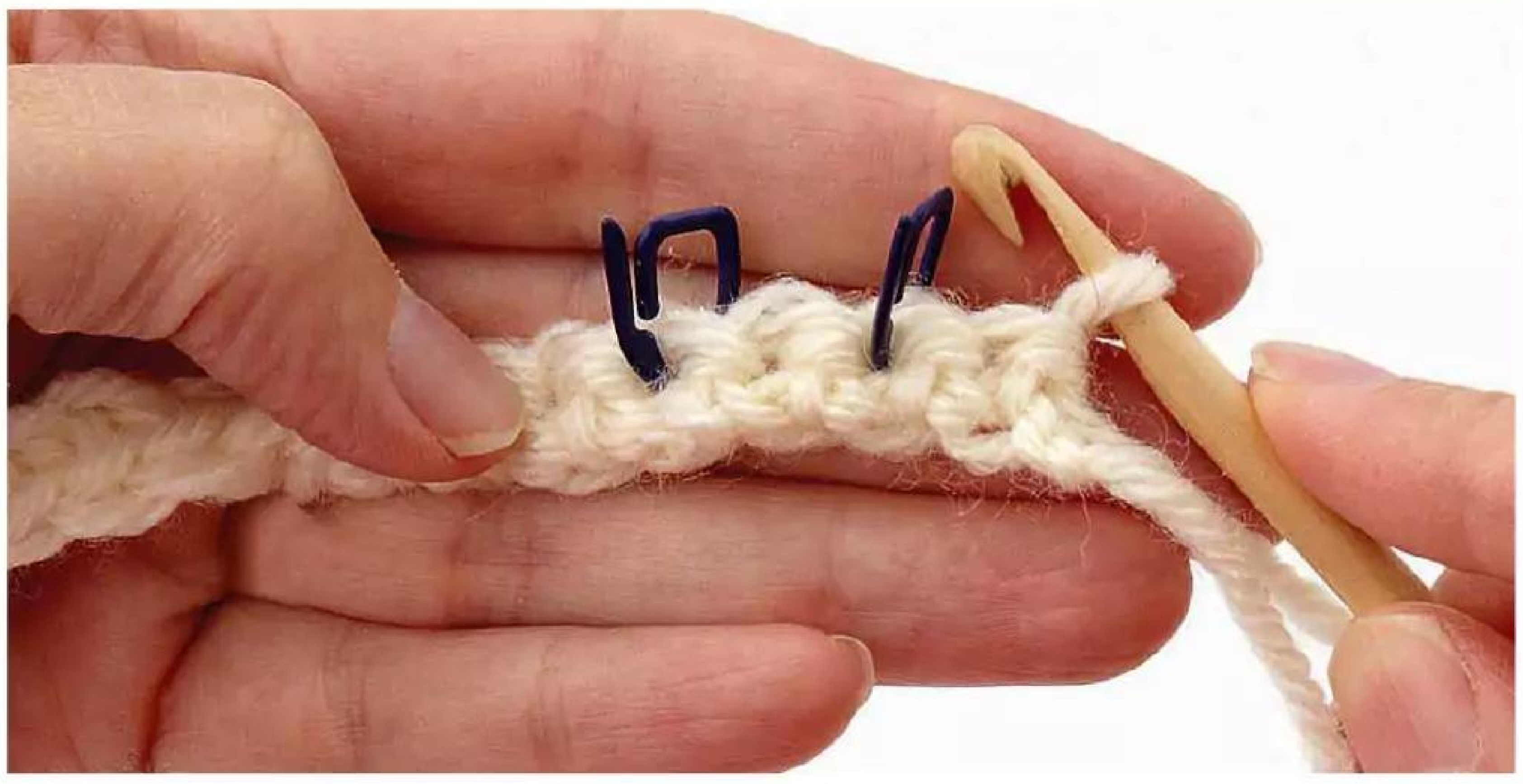


4 This is how your finished dc3tog should look. You will have decreased 2 stitches. On subsequent rows, just work a stitch into the top of the dc3tog stitch as usual.

USING STITCH MARKERS

How to make sure you're shaping in the right place

Using row counters and stitch markers will help you to keep track of your increases and decreases, so you work them on the right rows and into the right stitches. The picture (right) shows a simple row of double crochet stitches, with markers in the 2nd and 4th stitches. Once you've worked your shaping stitches, such as in the 2nd and 4th stitches, you can move the markers up, to keep track of your shaping. Try using one colour marker for increase stitches and another for decreases, especially if the pattern you're making is a little bit complicated.



TREBLE DECREASE

Here's how to decrease one treble crochet stitch

Decreasing in treble crochet is just as easy as in double crochet. There are two main methods of decreasing that you'll see used in patterns.

Some patterns use a quick decrease method, where you'll be instructed to 'skip a stitch' – this means you need to leave the next stitch unworked, and work into the following stitch. The quick method works well, but it will leave a small hole in the fabric – if that's the effect you want, that's fine.

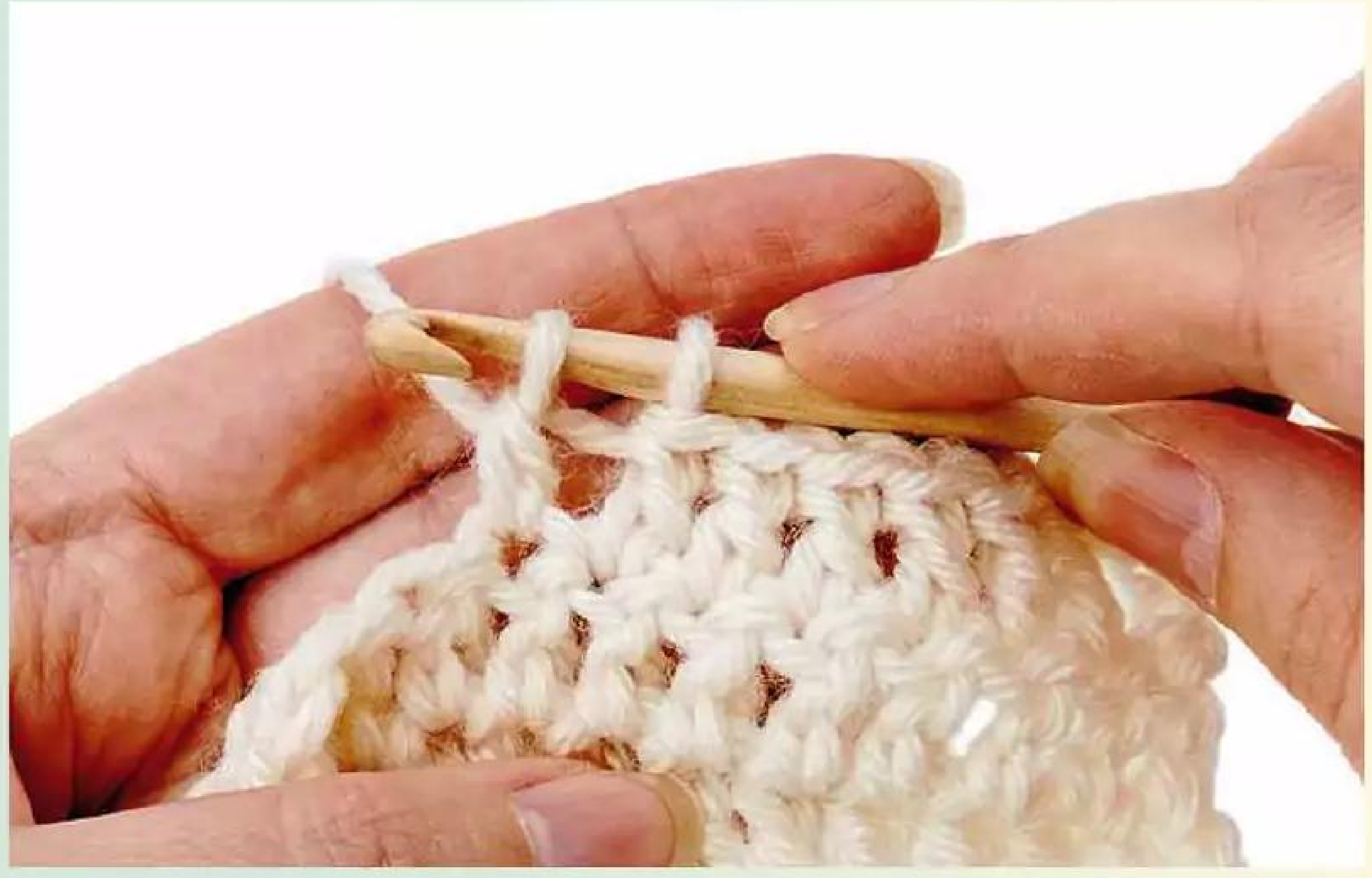
If you want a solid fabric, you'll need to work a decrease that's usually called tr2tog in patterns (shown below).

Skipping one stitch or working tr2tog (the abbreviation for 'treble 2 together') once in a row will reduce your stitch count by one. You can decrease at any point along a row, but the effects will be different if you decrease at the start, at the end or at the centre of the row.

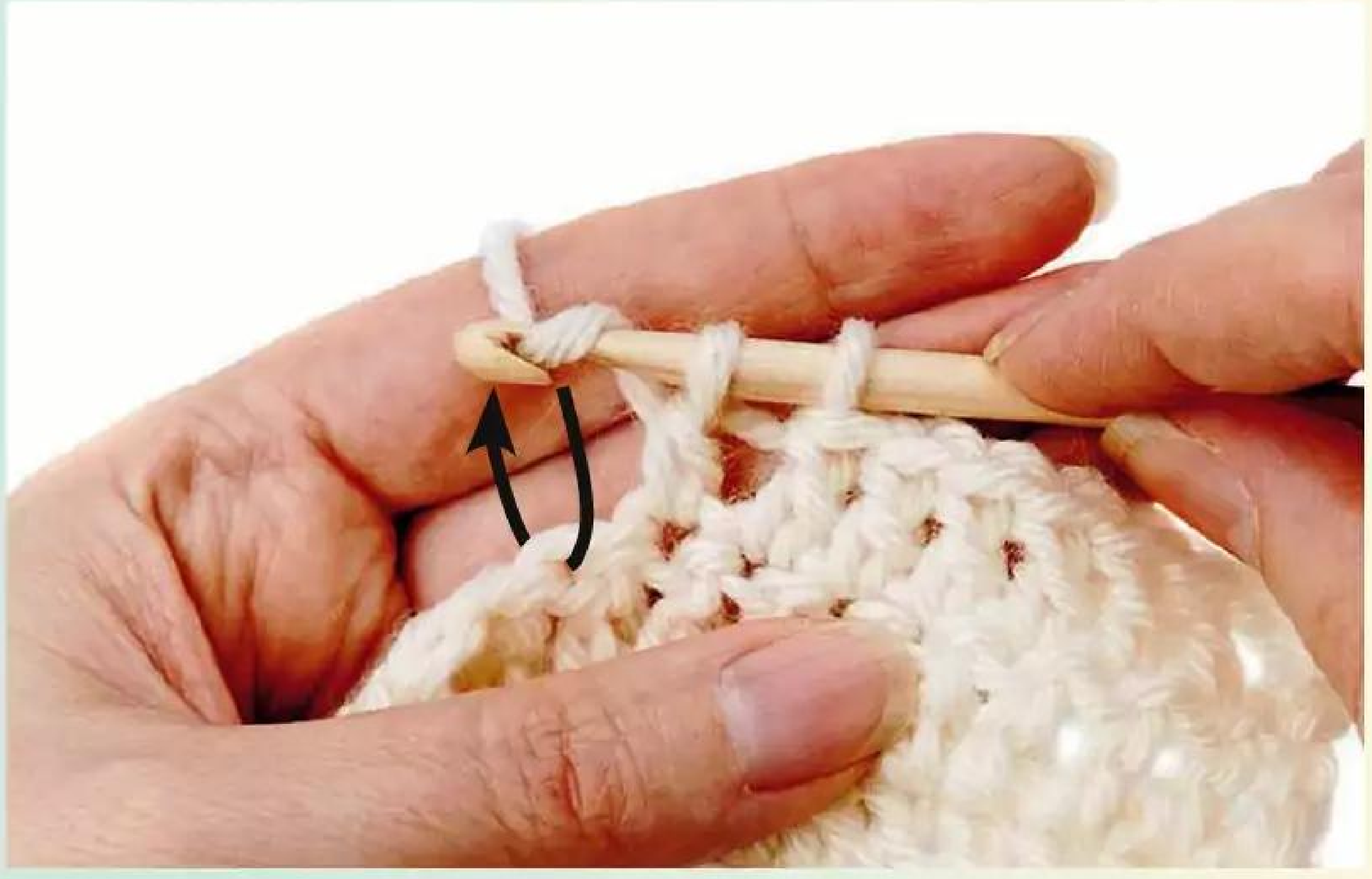
You can practise decreasing on a small swatch of treble fabric so you can see how the decreases will affect your pattern.

RIGHT-HAND

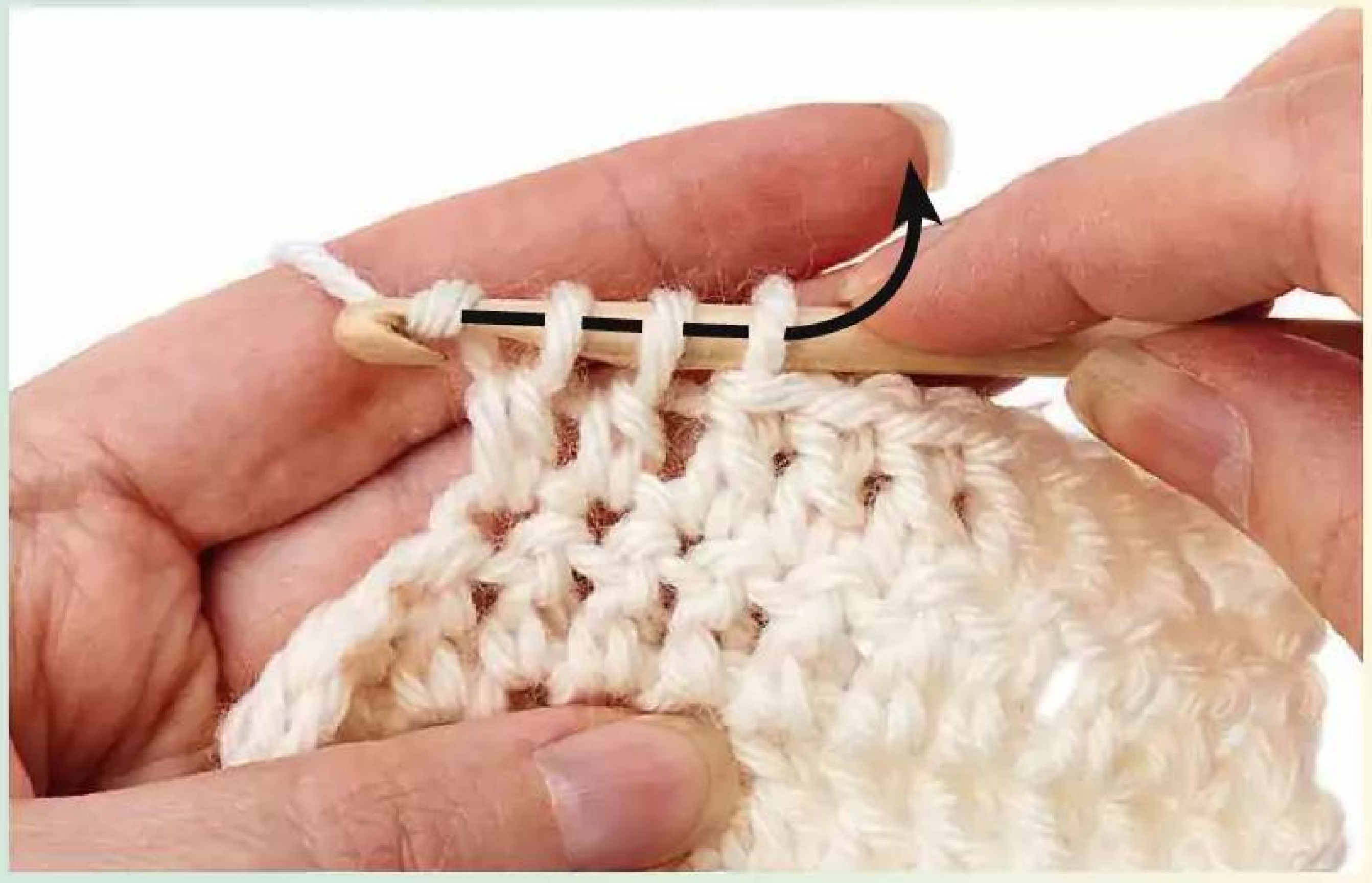
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect tr2tog...



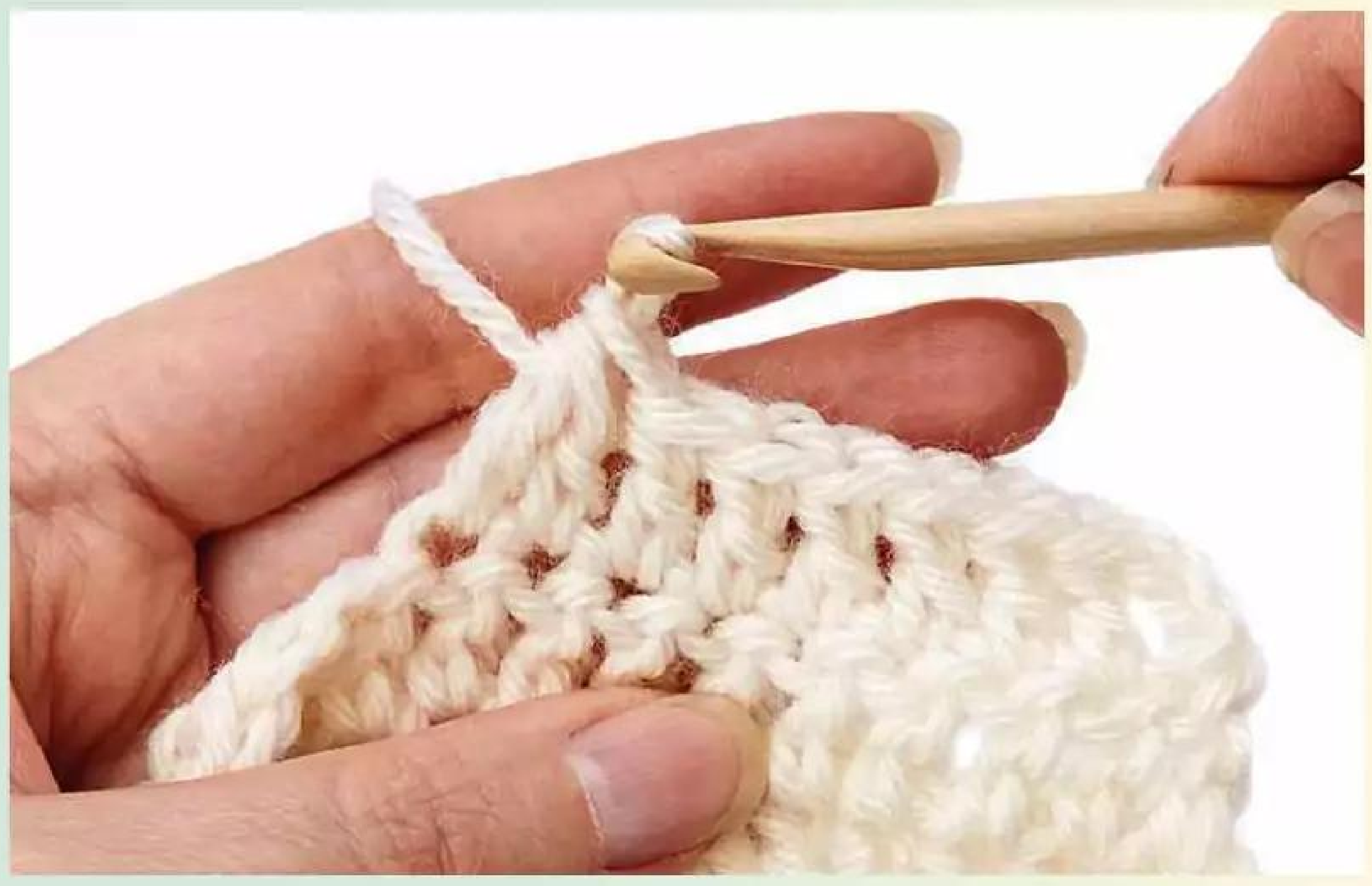
1 Begin a treble stitch in the usual way. Work yrh, insert hook under top two loops of next stitch on previous row. Work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook), yrh and pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook).



2 Without finishing the first treble stitch, begin the next treble by working: yrh, insert hook in next stitch on previous row. Again, work yrh, pull loop through, yrh and pull through first 2 loops (3 loops on hook).



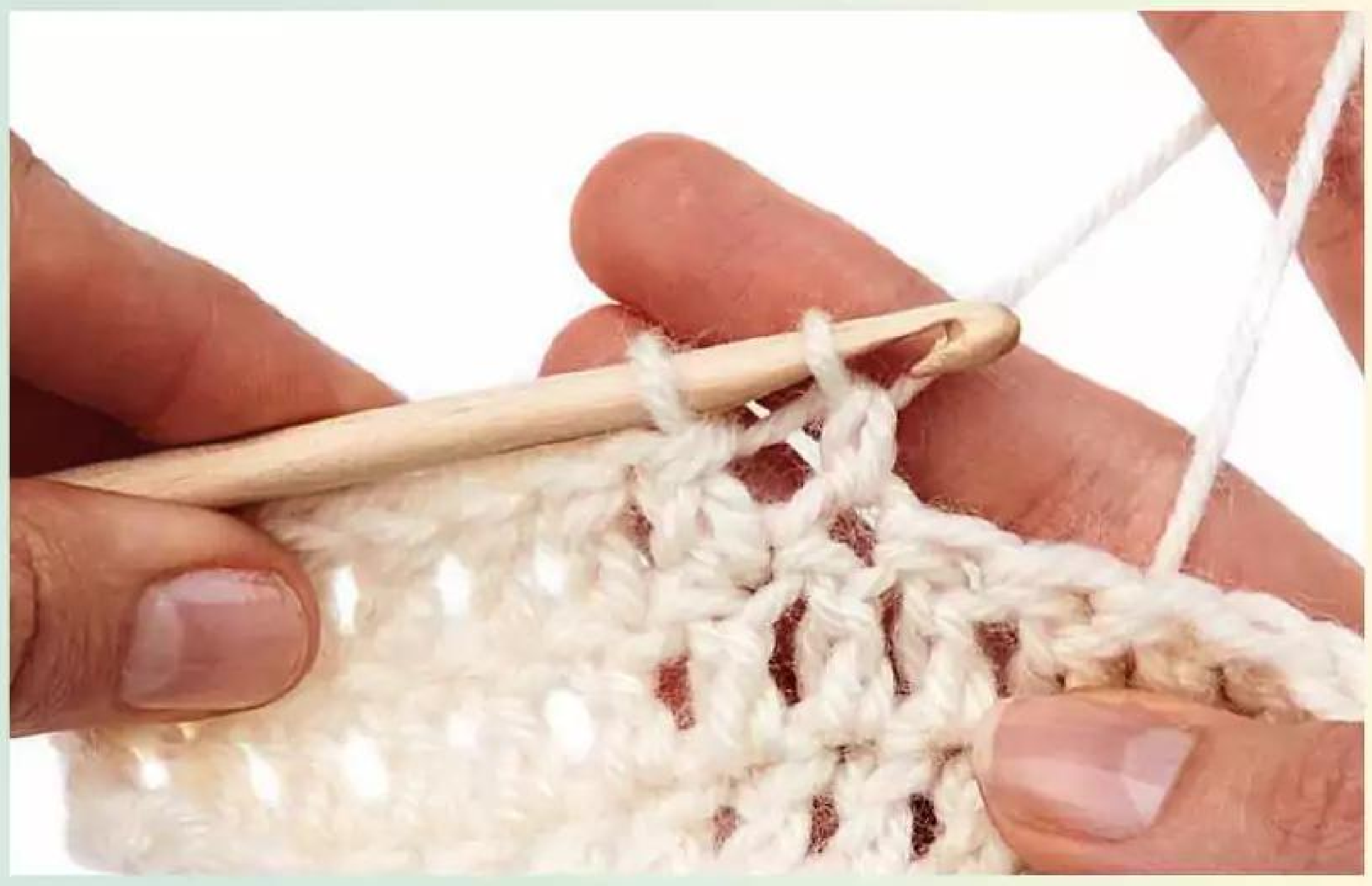
3 Now complete both treble stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all 3 loops on the hook.



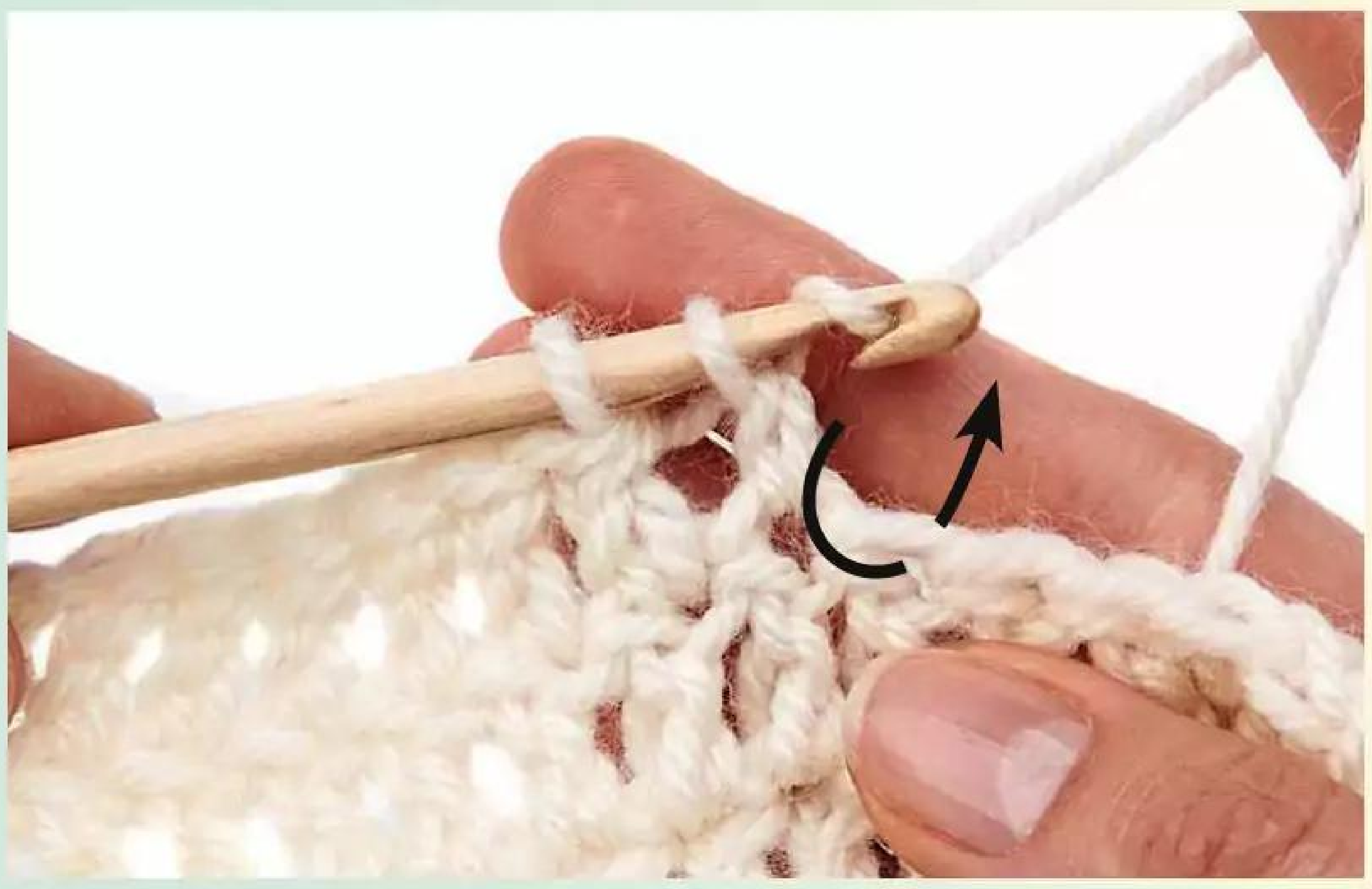
4 This is how your completed tr2tog should look. You will have neatly decreased one treble stitch. On subsequent rows, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the tr2tog stitch as usual.

LEFT-HAND

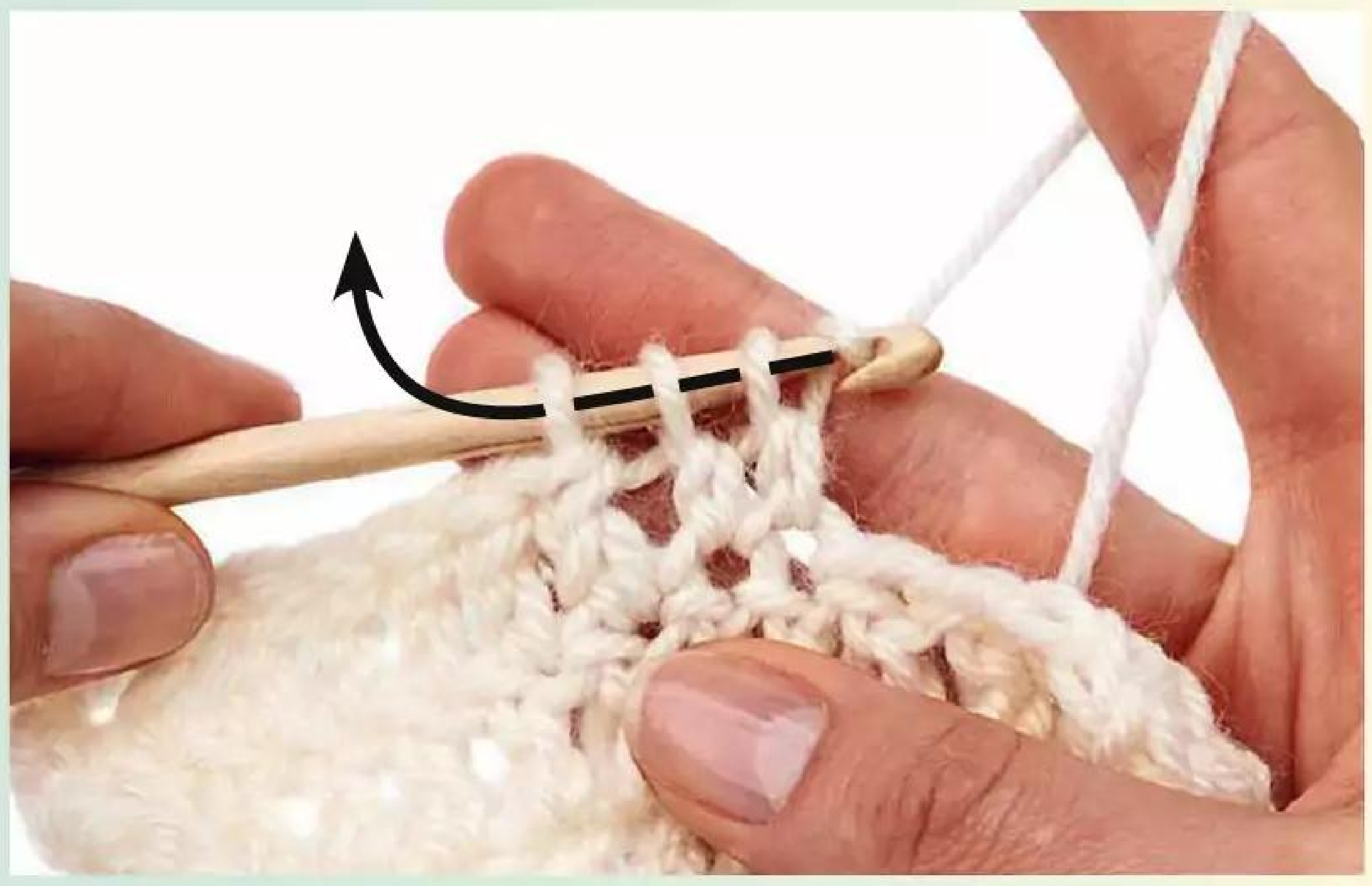
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect tr2tog...



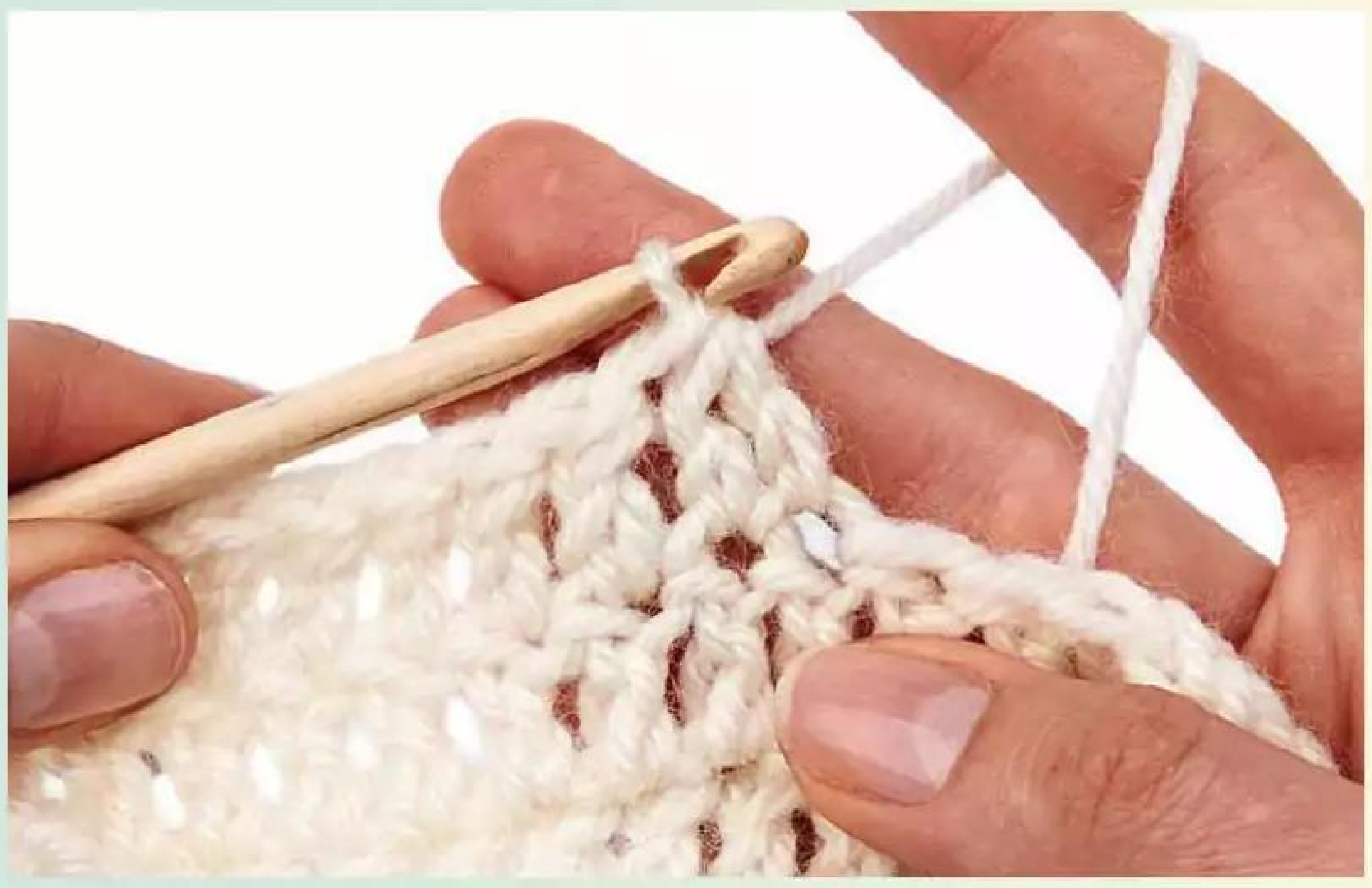
1 Begin a treble stitch in the usual way. Work yrh, insert hook under top two loops of next stitch on previous row. Work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook), yrh and pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook).



2 Without finishing the first treble stitch, begin the next treble by working: yrh, insert hook in next stitch on previous row. Again, work yrh, pull loop through, yrh and pull through first 2 loops (3 loops on hook).



3 Now complete both treble stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all 3 loops on the hook.



4 This is how your completed tr2tog should look. You will have neatly decreased one treble stitch. On subsequent rows, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the tr2tog stitch as usual.

SHAPING AND TURNING CHAINS

Here's how to work treble increases or decreases at the start of a row

When you're shaping trebles, the turning chain can complicate things. At the end of a row, it's neater to work a plain treble in the top of the t-ch, so work any shaping before you reach the last stitch. To shape at the start of a row, work the t-ch and skip the stitch at the base of the t-ch, as usual. Then work the increase into the top of the next stitch on the row below, or work a tr2tog stitch over the next two stitches. Or follow your pattern instructions.

TREBLE CROCHET DECREASED FABRIC

TREBLE CROCHET INCREASED FABRIC

LARGE TREBLE DECREASES

How to create a two-stitch decrease, also called tr3tog

Once you know how to work tr2tog, it's easy to work a larger decrease, such as tr3tog (which means work three treble crochet stitches together) to decrease by two stitches.

This sort of stitch is most often used in garments or accessory patterns, and it's a neat way to reduce your stitch count. It will result in a solid fabric, rather than leaving any holes.

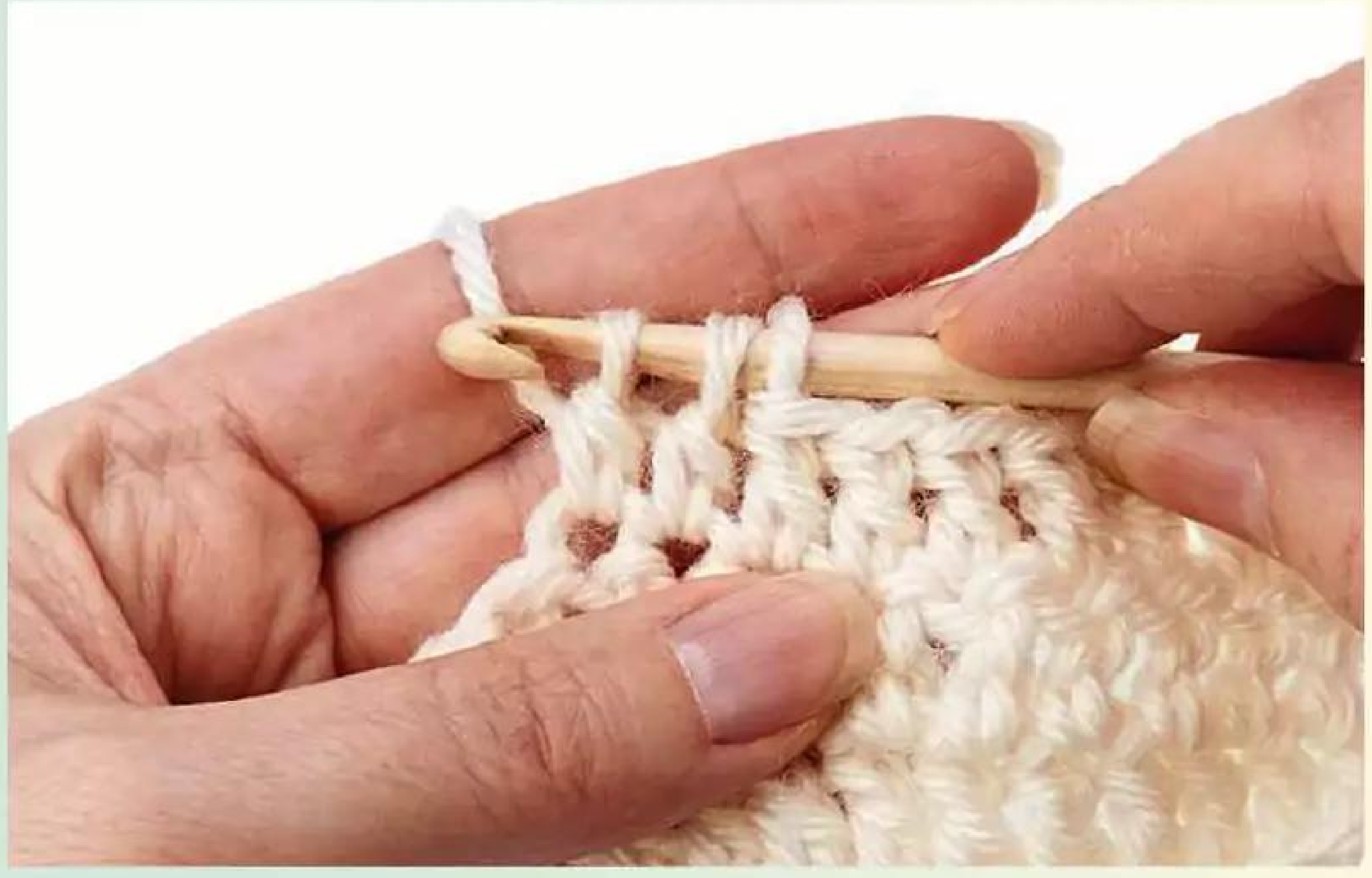
We've explained how to do the tr3tog stitch below, but we recommend that you get to grips with the tr2tog stitch first, before tackling the tr3tog. You'll find it much easier that way.

By working the tr3tog once in a row, you will reduce your stitch count by two. You can decrease at any point along the row, but the effects will be different if you decrease at the start, end or centre of the row.

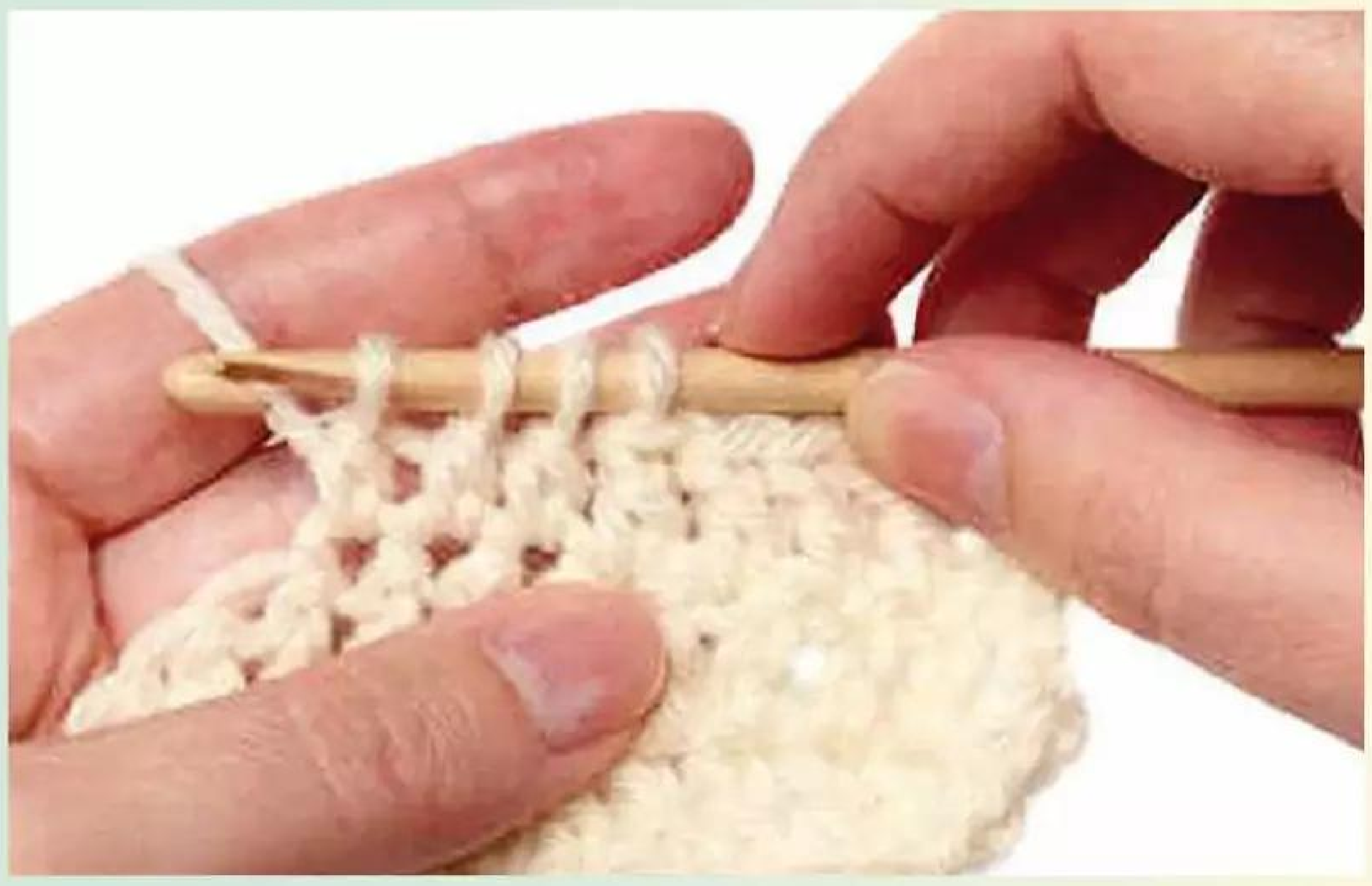
You can practise decreasing on a small swatch of treble fabric so you can see how the decreases will affect your pattern. It's a good way to get used to the technique.

RIGHT-HAND

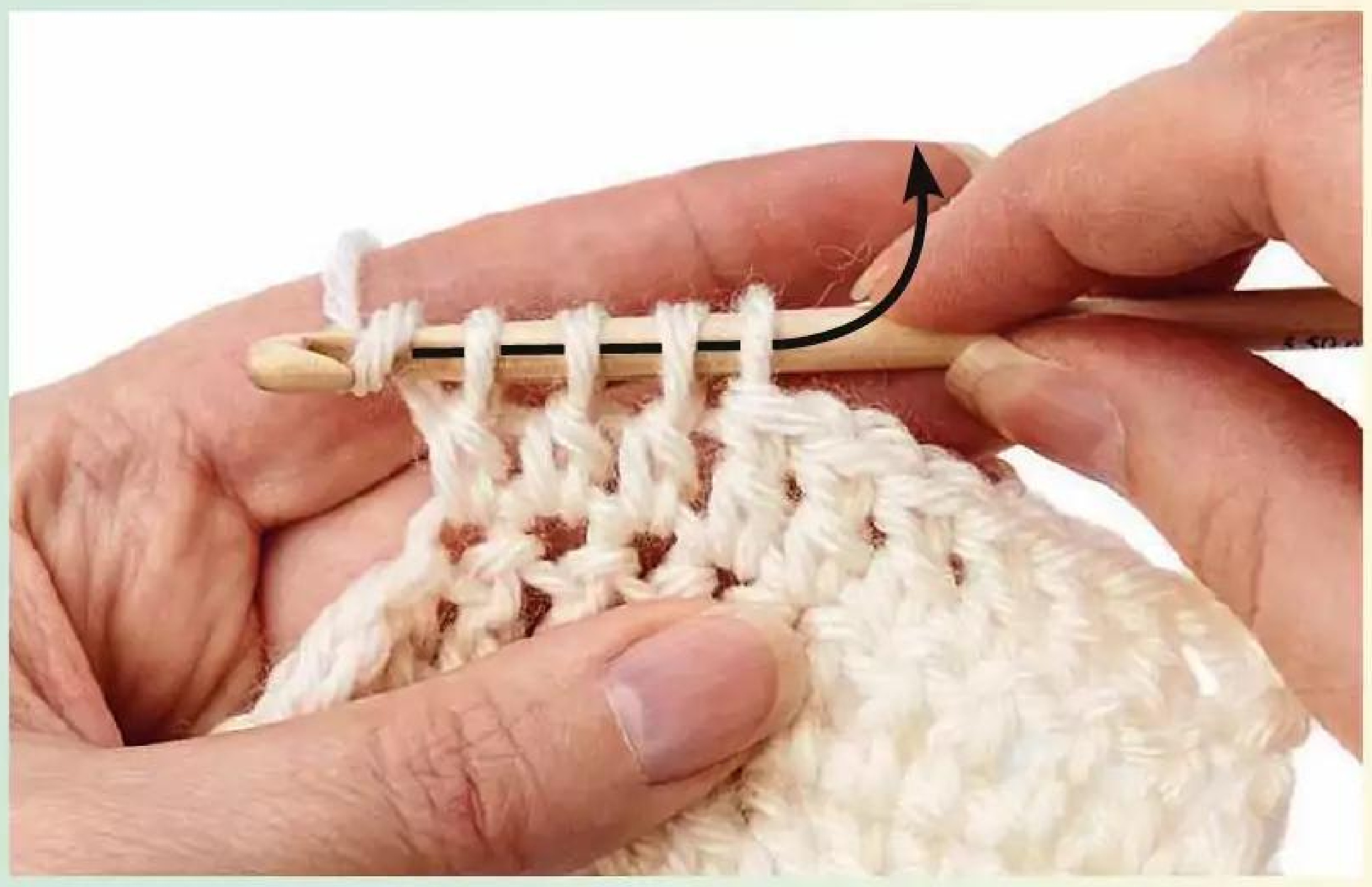
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to work a tr3tog…



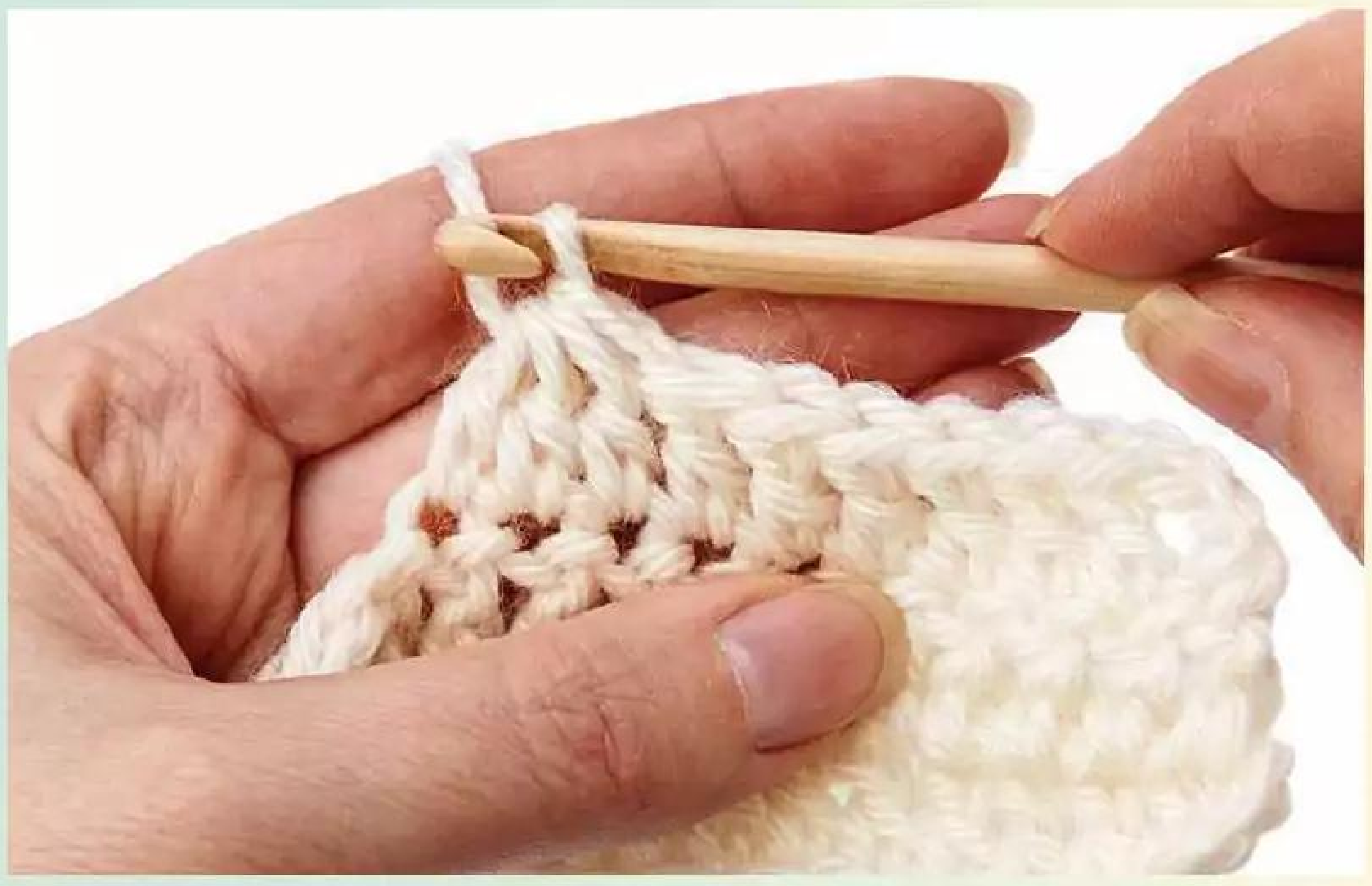
1 Start a tr stitch as usual: yrh, insert hook into next stitch, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops. Stop here. Start a 2nd tr in next stitch: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops (3 loops on hook). Stop here.



2 Without finishing the 1st or 2nd tr, begin a 3rd tr in the next stitch: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops (4 loops on hook). (For a tr4tog, start a 4th tr in the next stitch in the same way.)



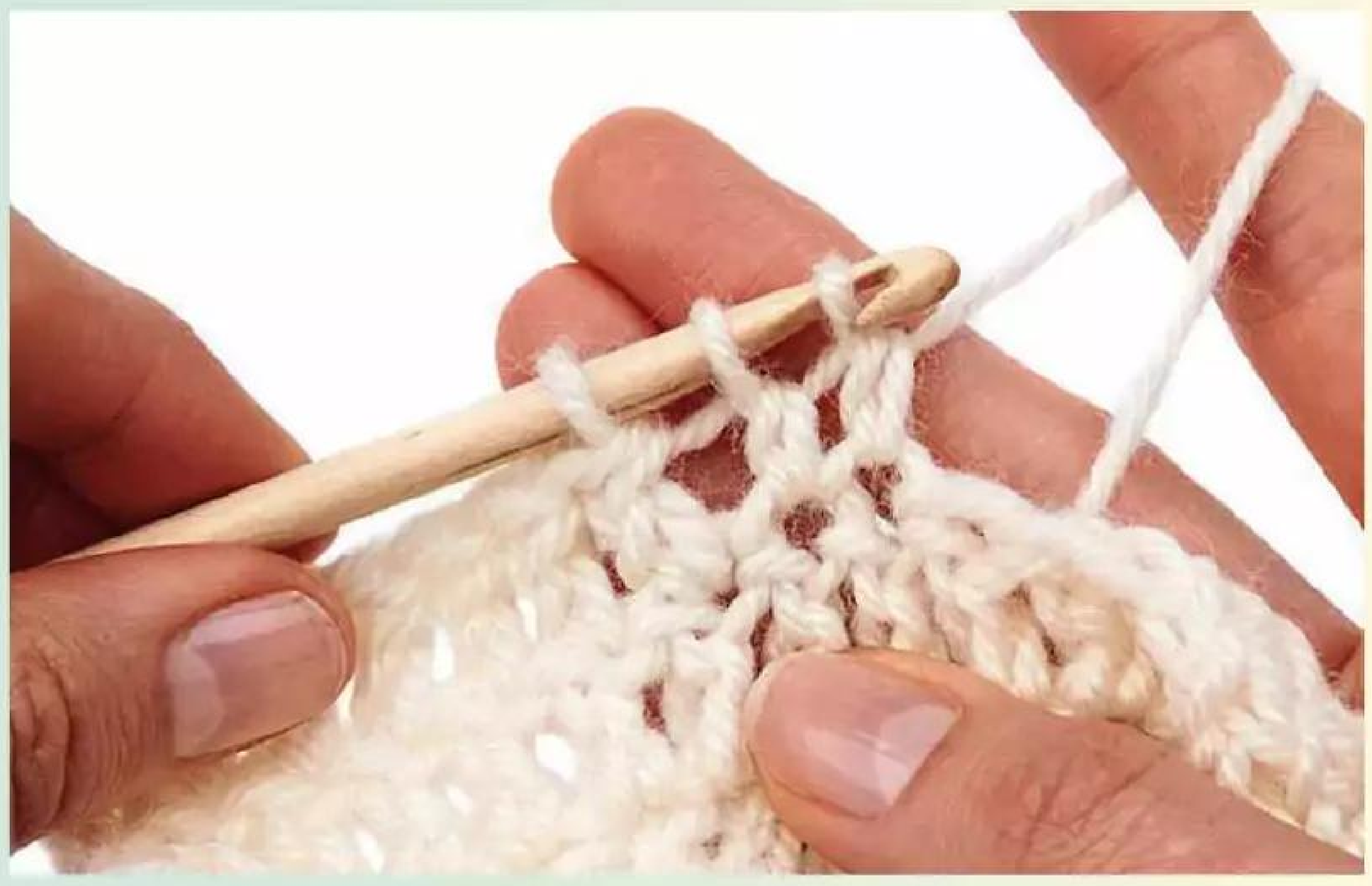
3 Now complete all the part-worked tr stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all the loops on the hook.



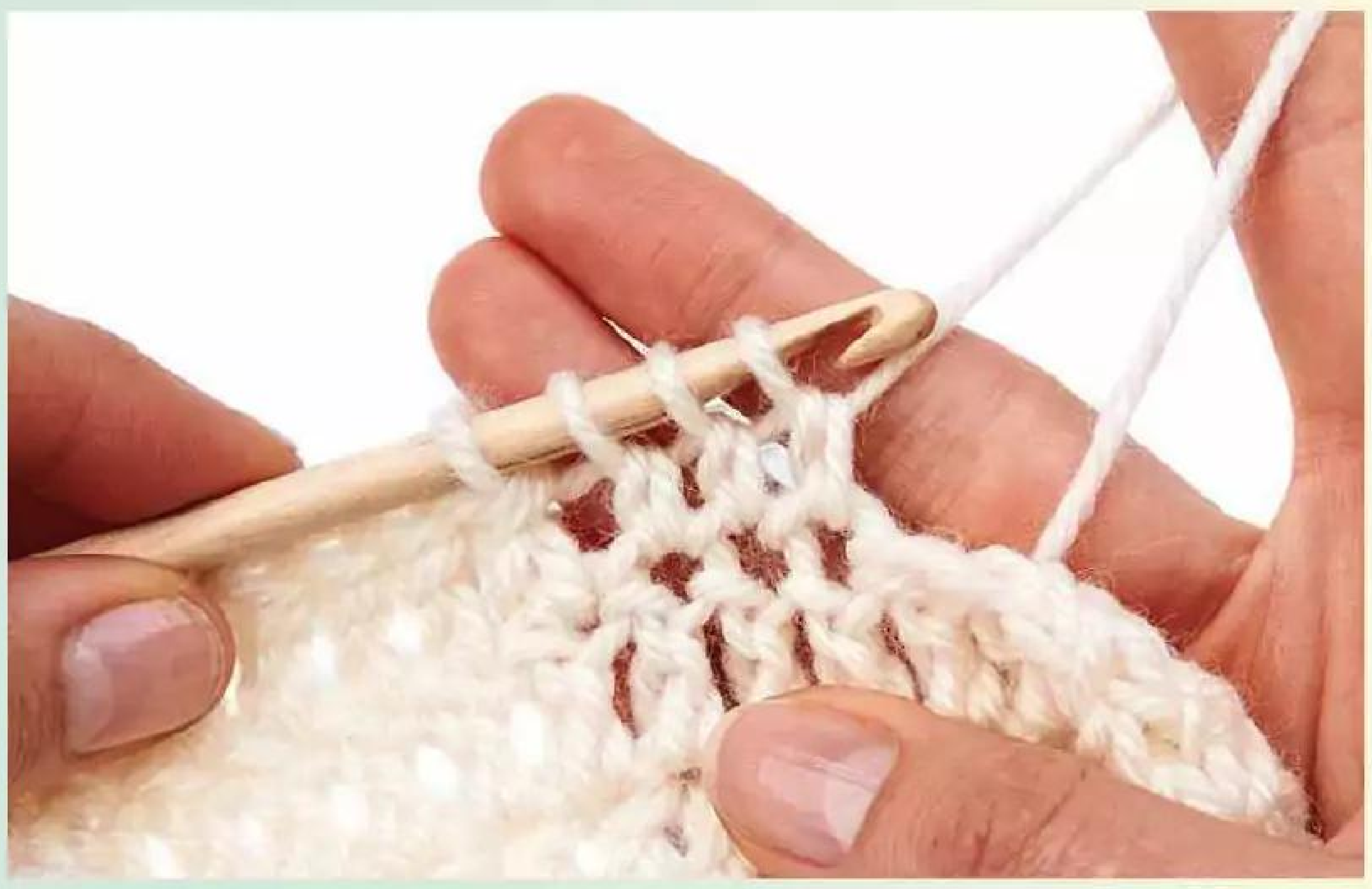
4 This is how your finished tr3tog should look. You will have decreased 2 stitches. On subsequent rows, just work a stitch into the top of the tr3tog stitch as usual.

LEFT-HAND

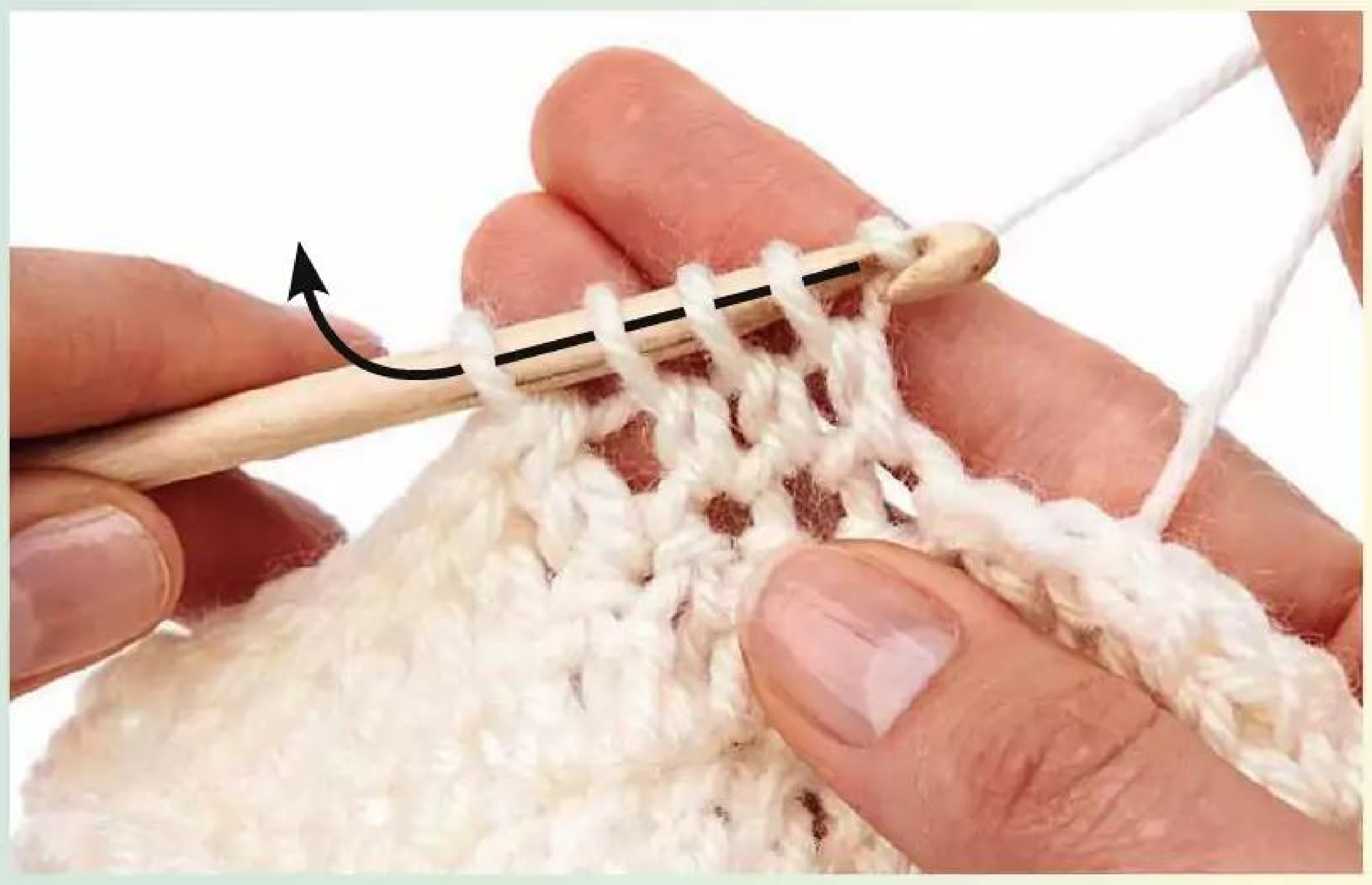
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to work a tr3tog...



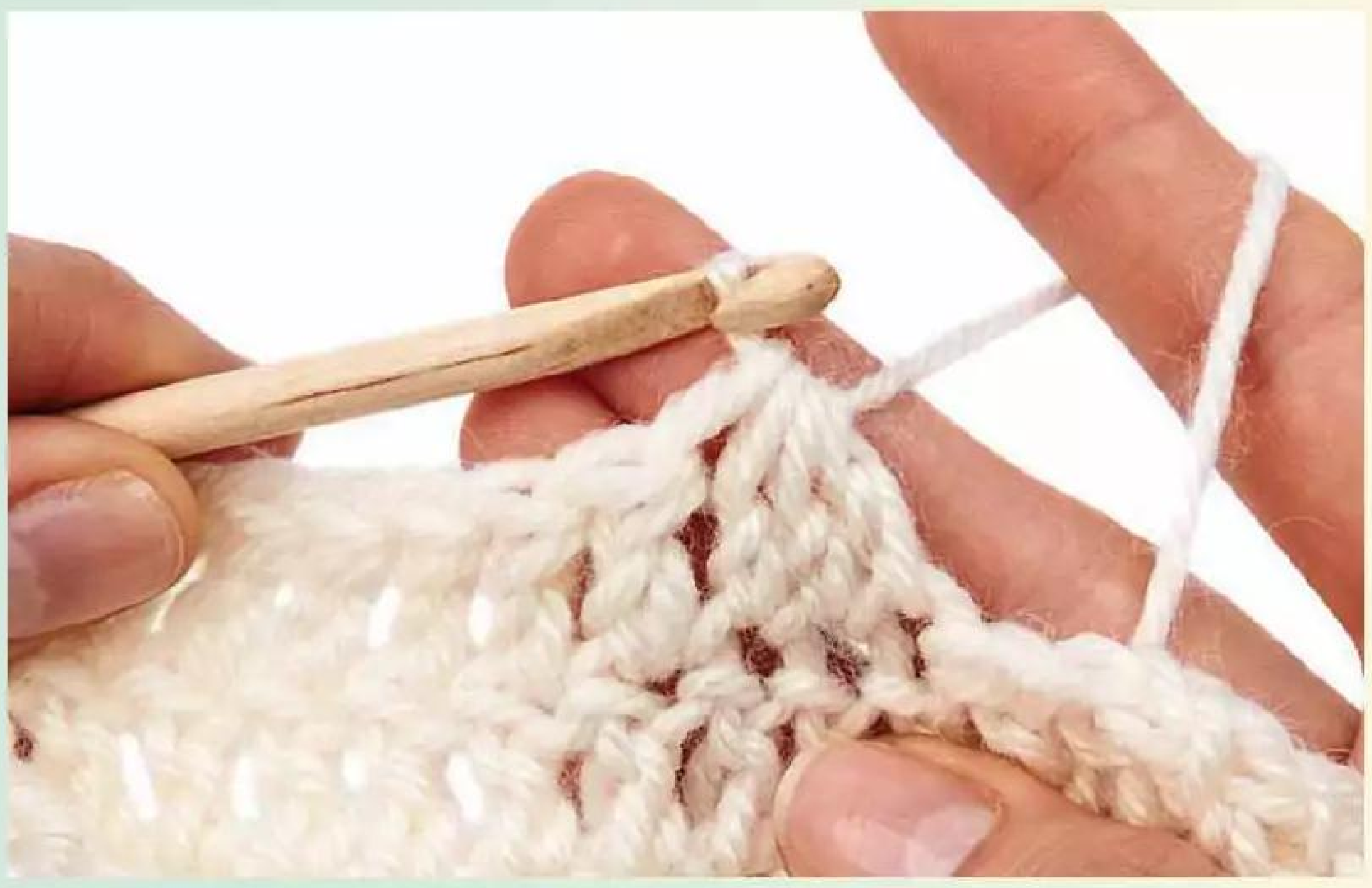
1 Start a tr stitch as usual: yrh, insert hook into next stitch, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops. Stop here. Start a 2nd tr in next stitch: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops (3 loops on hook). Stop here.



2 Without finishing the 1st or 2nd tr, begin a 3rd tr in the next stitch: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops (4 loops on hook). (For a tr4tog, start a 4th tr in the next stitch in the same way.)



3 Now complete all the part-worked tr stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all the loops on the hook.

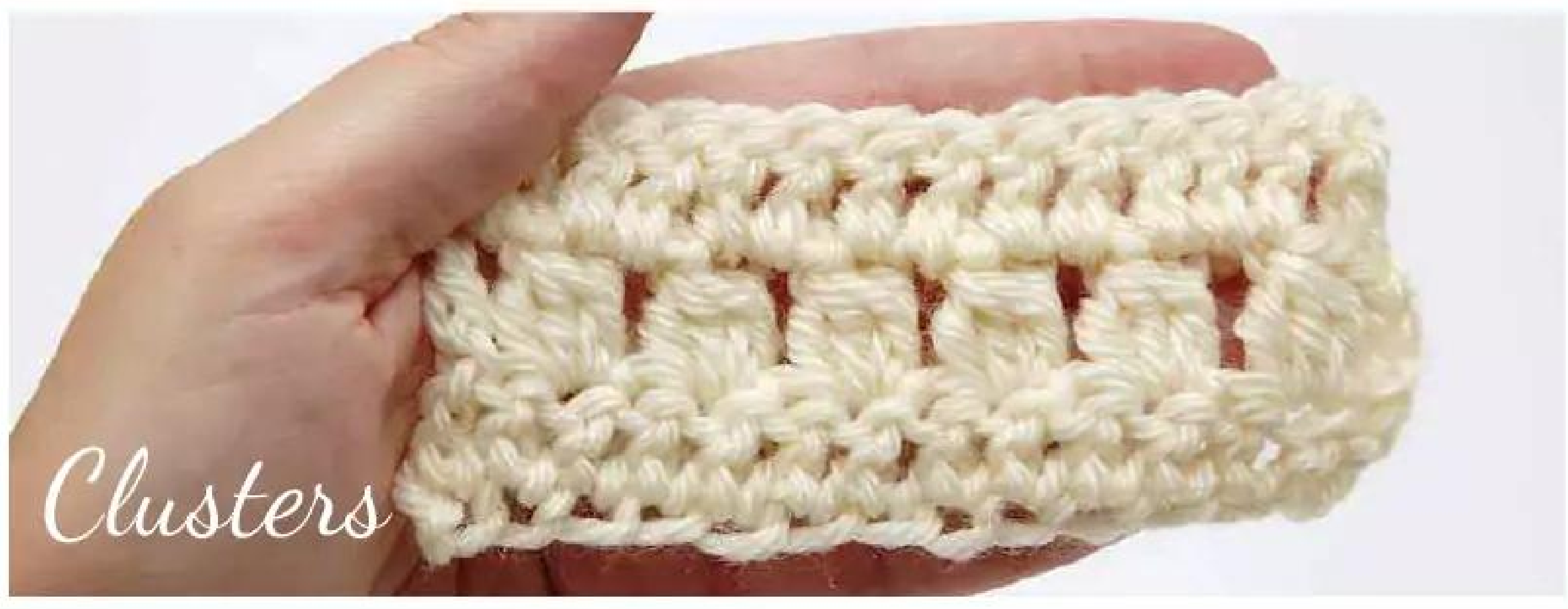


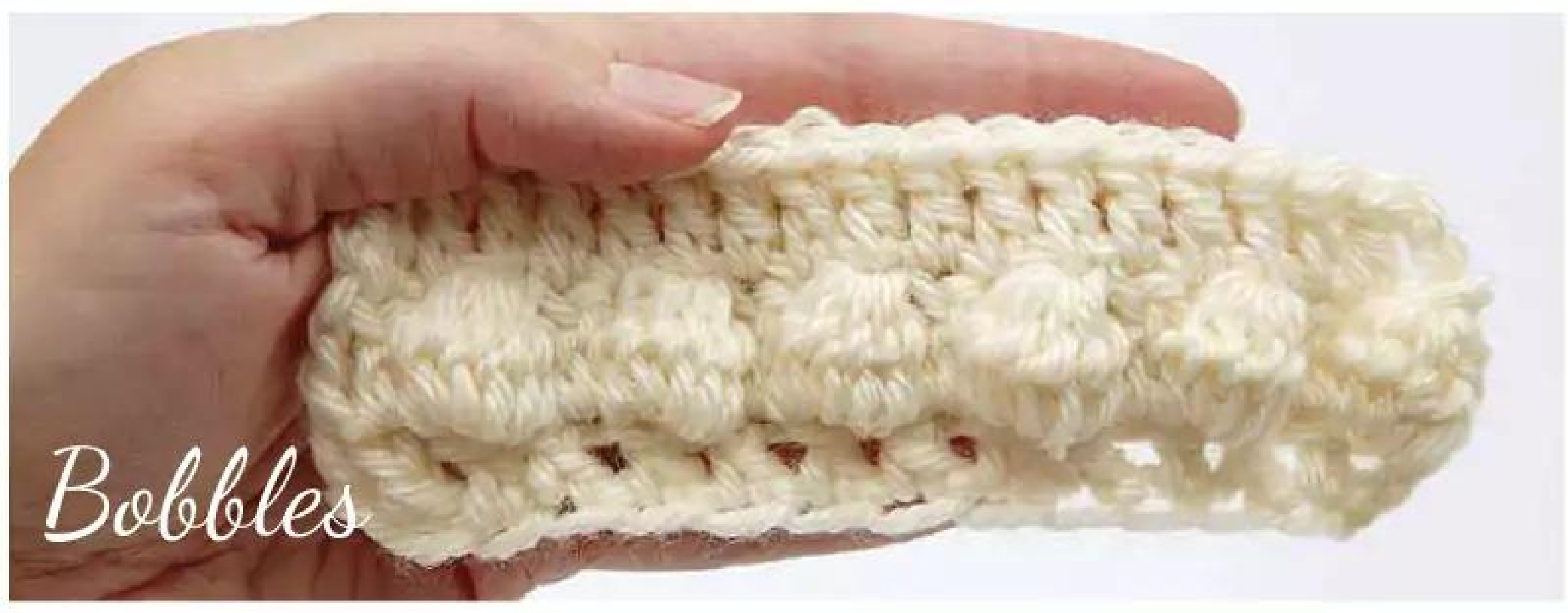
4 This is how your finished tr3tog should look. You will have decreased 2 stitches. On subsequent rows, just work a stitch into the top of the tr3tog stitch as usual.

CLUSTER STITCHES

How to create texture with more part-worked stitches

Decreases like the tr2tog or tr3tog use part-stitches, where you start the tr stitch but stop before the last 'yrh and pull through all loops'. Part-stitches are also used in crochet to make clusters and bobbles. For example, you work a 3-tr cluster just like a tr3tog (above), but each part-stitch is worked into the same stitch on the row below, instead of three separate stitches. To make a bobble, work 5-7 part-stitches into the same stitch, then finish them all together to create a raised bump. Experiment and see what you can make!

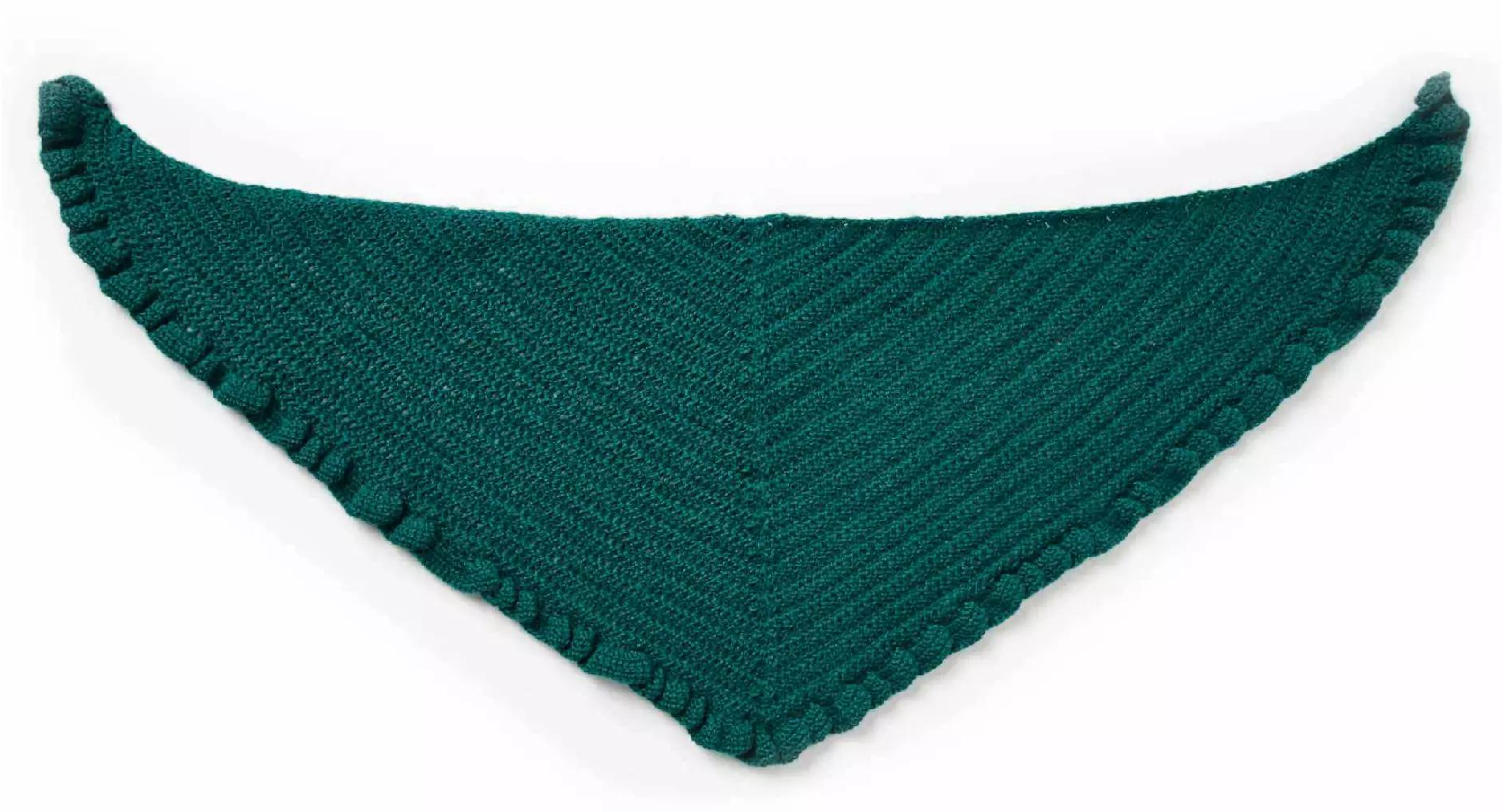




Great for practising shaping

SHAPING TREBLES

Hook **Sara Huntington**'s stylish frilled scarf
in a deep, emerald green shade



YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- UK Alpaca, Baby Alpaca Silk 4ply (80% baby alpaca, 20% silk, 50g/225m), 2 balls of Teal

HOOK

- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

TENSION AND SIZE

19 sts and 13 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over treble crochet using a 3mm hook
Finished scarf measures approx 90x34cm (35½x13½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 18

SCARF

Ch12 (counts as tr and 9 ch).

Row 1 (WS) 1tr in the fourth chain from the hook, 2tr in the next ch, 1tr in the next 2 ch, 3tr in the next ch, 1tr in the next 2 ch, 2tr in the next 2 ch, turn. [15 tr]

Row 2 (RS) Ch3, 1tr in st at the base of ch-3, 2tr in the next st, 1tr in each st across to central 3-tr group, (FPtr in the next tr, 3tr in the next tr, FPtr in the next tr) into 3-tr group, 1tr in each st across to the last two sts, 2tr in the next 2 sts, turn. [21 sts]

Row 3 Ch3, 1tr in st at the base of ch-3, 2tr in the next st, 1tr in each st across to central 3-tr group, (tr in the next tr, 3tr in the next tr, tr in the next tr) into 3-tr group, 1tr in each st across to the last two sts, 2tr in the next 2 sts, turn. [27 sts]

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 until the work measures approx 30cm (12in) from Row 1 to the central 3-tr group in the last row worked, ending with a WS row, do not fasten off.

FRILL

Row 1 (RS) With RS facing, ch1 (does not count as st), 3dc into each st across, turn.

Rows 2-6 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st across, turn.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Block the scarf gently to size (see page 127 for instructions).

The frill is worked along the bottom edges, leaving the top edge straight and comfy around the neck

The tapered ends of this triangle scarf can be tied together at the back or simply draped around you

MADE TO MEASURE

Get those lengths and widths spot on with our collection of tape measures

1

2

3

4

5

6

1 Take a trip back in time with the beautiful Sajou Wooden Tape Measure. A vintage-style option with a cherrywood stain, the measuring tape unwinds by pulling on the end ring and is rewound by turning the small knob on top of the tape measure. It is 2.5cm in height (not including the knob) and comes with either red, blue, pink, beige or black ribbon and Sajou embroidery.
£30, www.shopbeyondmeasure.co.uk

2 and **6** These adorable tape measures are a perfect pick-me-up for any crafter. Available in two designs – fox or floral – each tape measure is retractable, measures in cm and inches and comes in its own charming craft box. Both tape measures offer 150cm total measuring length and will fit neatly into your craft bag or pouch, too.
£4.95 each, www.pocketcraftsupplies.etsy.com

3 If simplicity is your mantra you'll love this plain and simple Hemline tape measure. Nice and light in colour, it's a breeze to find in the dark depths of your crochet bag. Merrily measure up to 150cm in length in either cm or inches, then use its neat retractable action to tidy up quickly and carry on hooking!
£3.29, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk or call 0800 505 3300

4 We love polka dots! Perky and pretty no matter what the occasion, they certainly bring a smile to the face. Extend your love of all things dotty with this sweet tape measure. Available in grey, green, pink, lilac and fawn (seen here), its sturdy plastic case houses the retractable tape measure so that it doesn't get caught in your WIP.
£2.79 plus postage, www.n28store.etsy.com

5 Have fun while you hook and pick up an oh-so-cute panda tape measure that comes with a rigid fibreglass case and long, strong tape measure. Featuring measurements in both cm and inches, it measures up to 60in when fully extended, perfect for those sleeves.
£3.55, for stockists visit www.woolstack.co.uk or call 01242 300280

MORE STITCHES

Complete your crochet repertoire by learning how to work the remaining stitches. You can combine different stitches to create interesting lace patterns and tackle almost any pattern

HALF TREBLE FABRIC

This simple stitch forms a fairly dense fabric

Once you can make treble and double crochet stitches, it's easy to learn more crochet stitches. The most popular of these is half treble (abbreviated as htr, and called half double crochet in the US).

The half treble stitch is worked in a similar way to a treble, but without the final yrh and pull loop through. This means it's shorter and quicker to work than a treble stitch, but longer than a double crochet stitch, so it has the best of both worlds!

Half trebles create a fairly dense and warm fabric, with a slightly lacy texture, so it's a great all-round stitch for all sorts of projects. Crocheters usually describe the pattern effect on the crochet fabric as a 'stitch pattern'. If you work rows of half trebles on every row, back and forth, you'll create a simple half treble stitch pattern.

Below left is an example of half treble stitches worked in one row. Repeat these rows to create half treble fabric, shown below right. You'll see that the stitch pattern creates rows of tall 'v' shapes. In rows, half treble fabric looks the same on the front and the back. In rounds, half treble fabric gives a different effect on each side. Whichever method you're using to work the fabric, a pattern will always tell you which is the right and wrong side.

Work through our guide to learn the half treble stitch and then have a go at our easy half treble hat project on page 96, with an optional heart decoration.

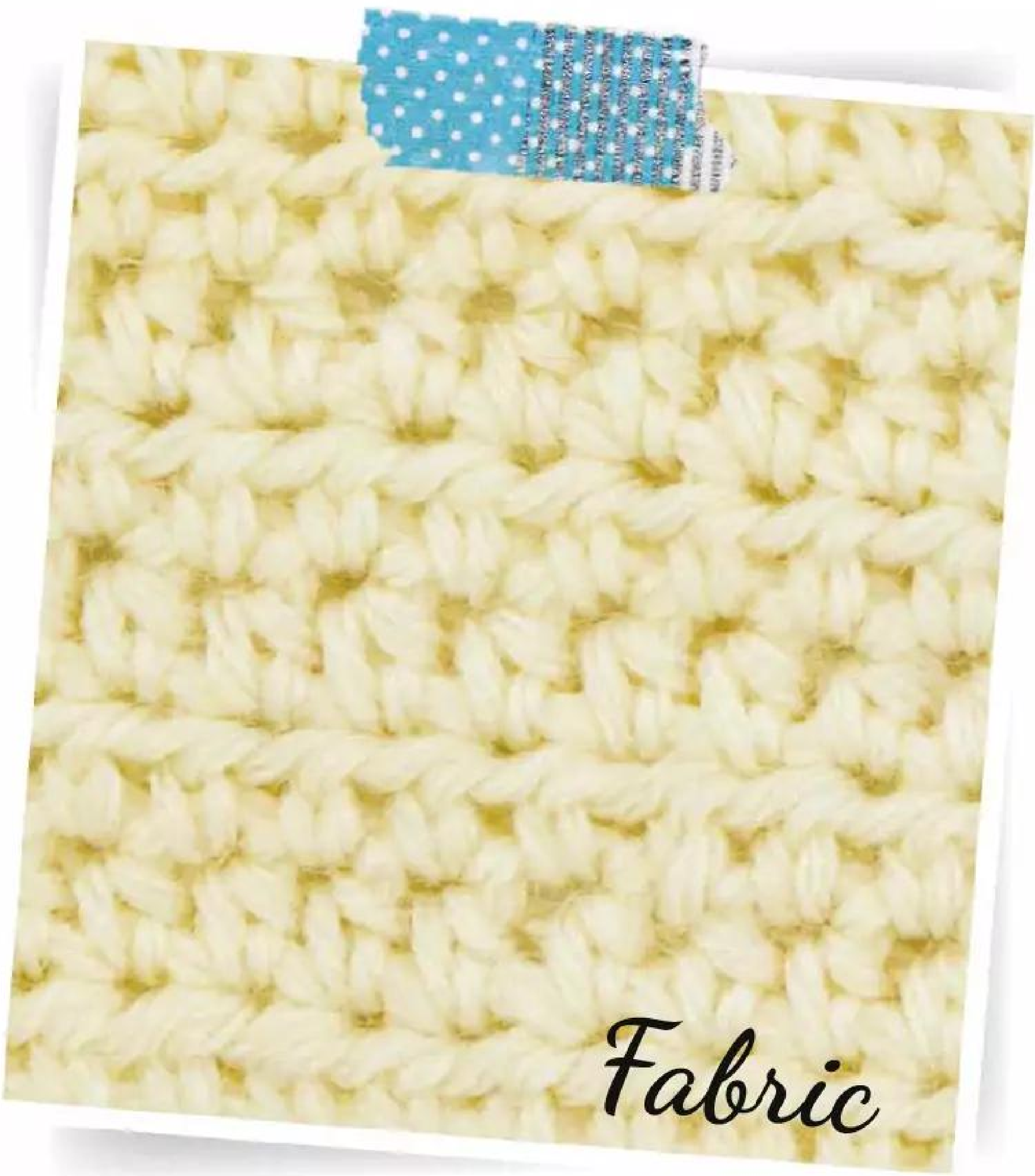
Once you can work the half treble in rows, it's easy to work it in rounds and to work half treble decreases, using the same techniques as we've covered for working trebles, back on page 82 .

❶ TEXTURED ROWS

Each half treble stitch is worked into each chain stitch, creating a lacy pattern on the side of the stitch and a neat 'v' shape at the top of the stitch. Half treble is abbreviated as 'htr'.

❷ DRAPING FABRIC

Half treble fabric has a lovely texture and drape. It's not as dense as double crochet, but not as lacy as treble crochet. The stitches sit quite close together for a fairly dense fabric.



HIP TO BE SQUARE

For every stitch you learn and practise, crochet up a square or two, using different colours if you want to. Then sew them together to make a fab throw that will become a great reference guide. Try using DK yarn, a 4mm hook and about 22 stitches to make a 10cm (4in) square, or 33 stitches to make a slightly larger 15cm (6in) square. Make a foundation chain of 21 or 32 chains, then the turning chain of 2ch (counts as a stitch). Then work a half treble into each of the 21 or 32 chains to the end. Turn, make the t-ch and half treble into the 2nd stitch and each stitch to the end of the row. Repeat until you have a square, then fasten off.

HALF TREBLE FABRIC IDEAS

The dense yet light fabric created with half treble is great for all sorts of projects, especially accessories. Half treble fabric has an attractive drape that's also great for garments.

HALF TREBLE INTO CHAINS

How to crochet half treble stitches into your chain length

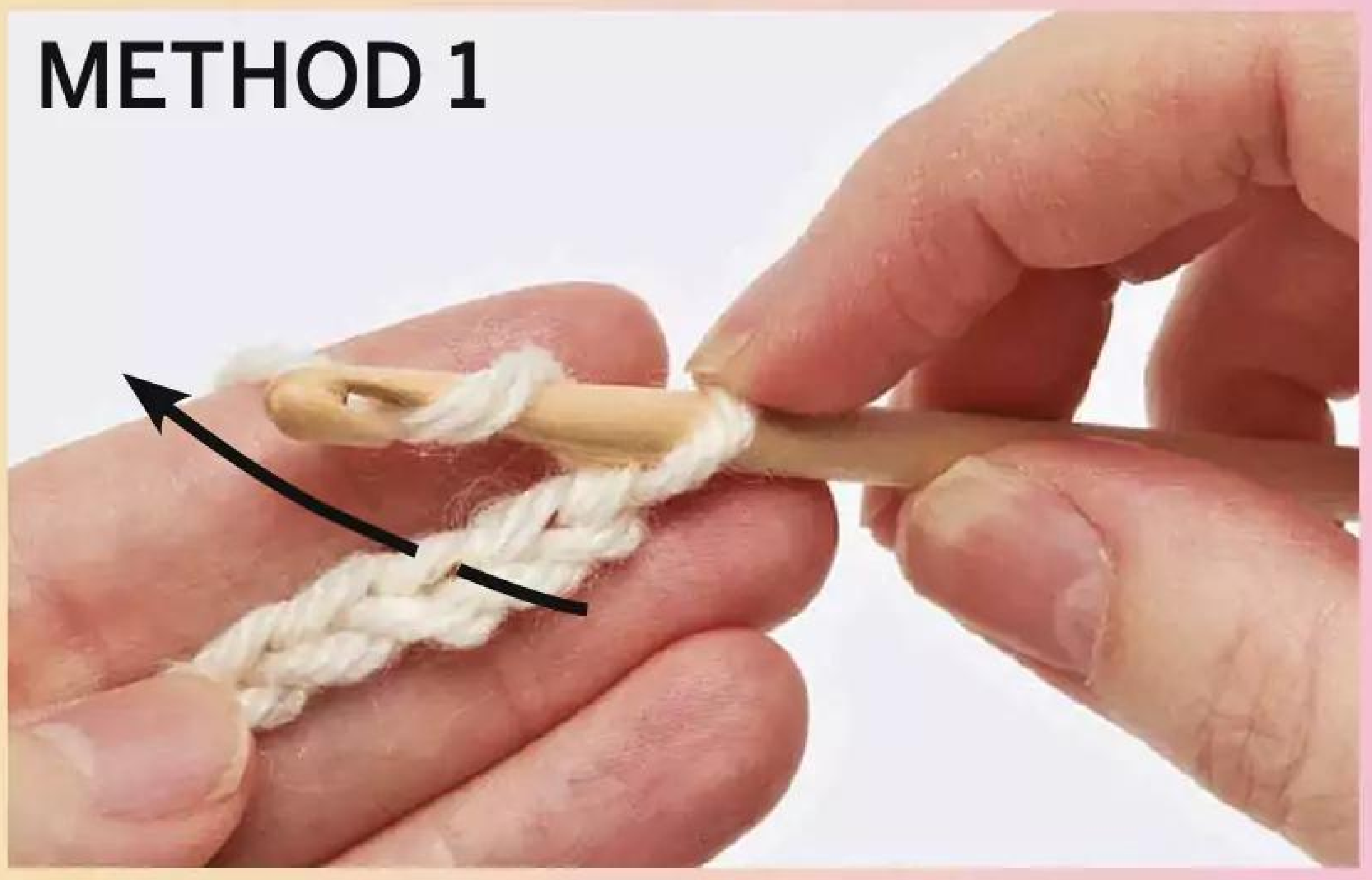
Start off by making a chain length – try 23 chains and then use one of the methods below to work your first half treble stitch into the foundation chain. One method might suit you better, so try both.

Make sure you insert the hook under two loops of the chain stitch (the top front loop and the loop at the back of the chain). Some patterns ask you to insert the hook under just the top front loop of the chain, and you can also use this method if your chain is a bit tight. If it's very tight, undo it and rework it using a larger hook. Then switch back to the smaller hook.

Method 2 gives a more solid finish to your fabric and maintains the plaited look of the front of the chain, which looks neater.

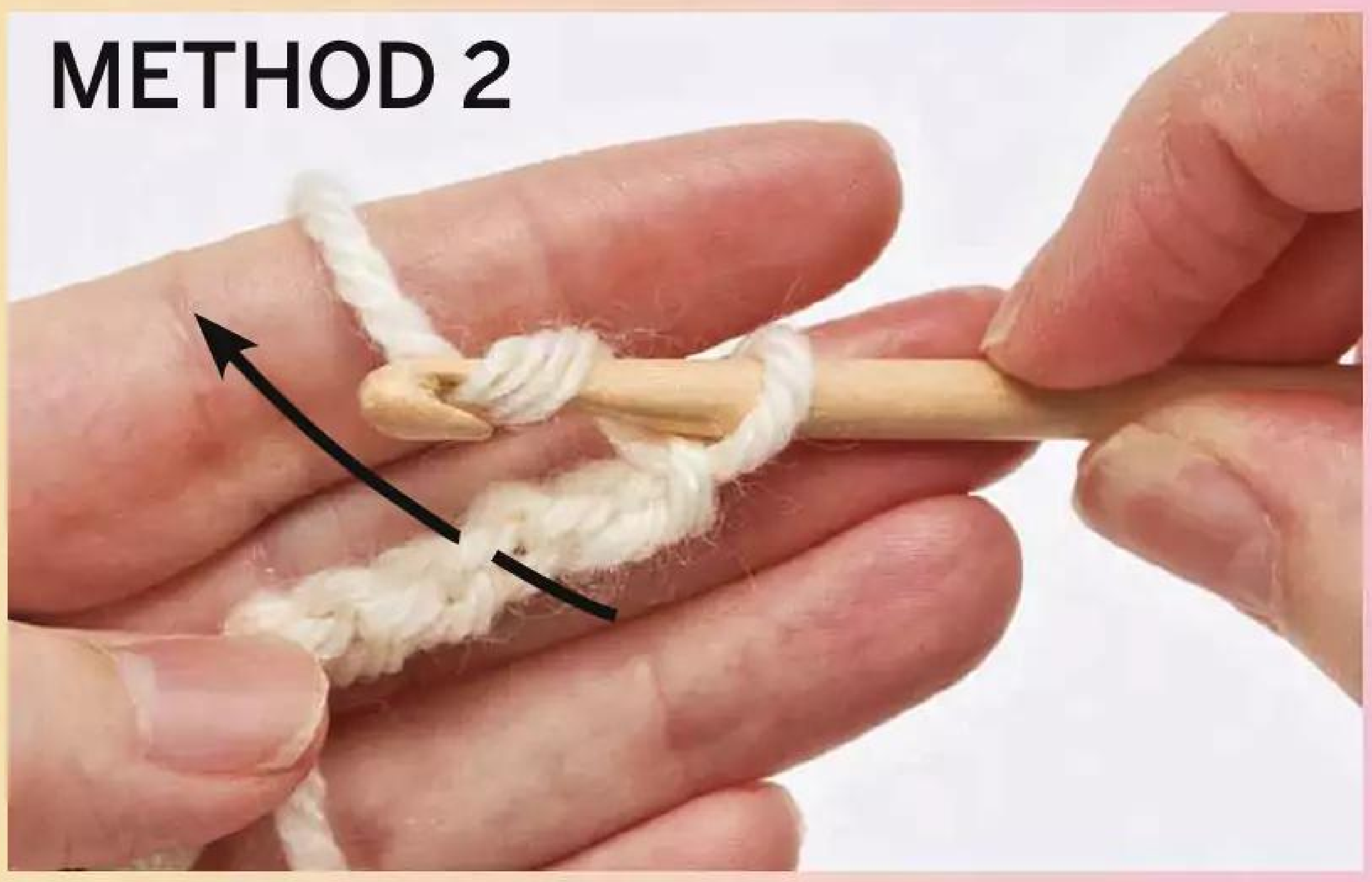
RIGHT-HAND

METHOD 1



When working half treble crochet, wrap yarn round the hook first, then insert the hook into the 3rd chain from the hook, as shown above. Then continue your first half treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

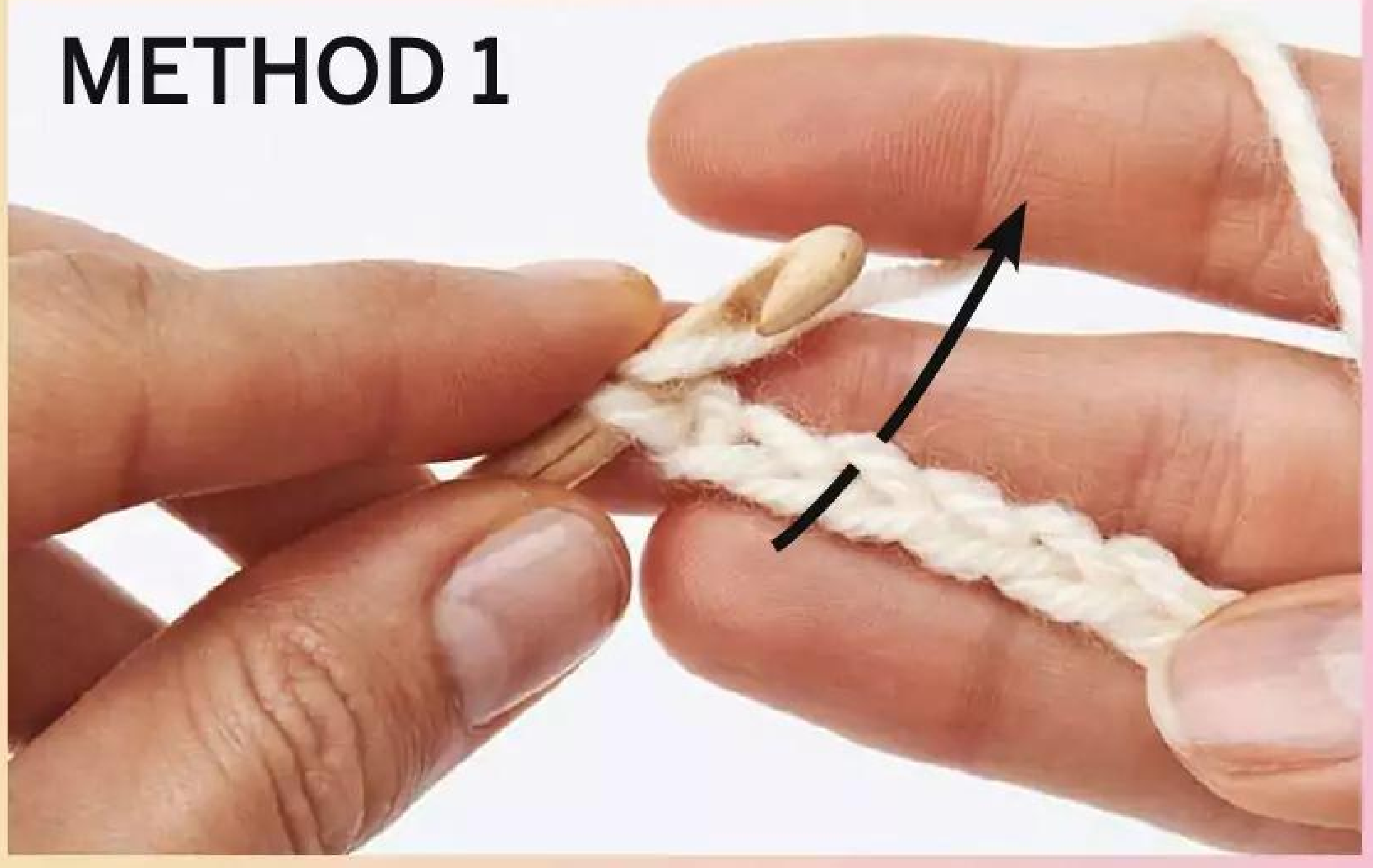
METHOD 2



Wrap the yarn round the hook first for half treble crochet. Then insert your hook into the 3rd bump from the hook, on the back of the chain. Then continue your first half treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

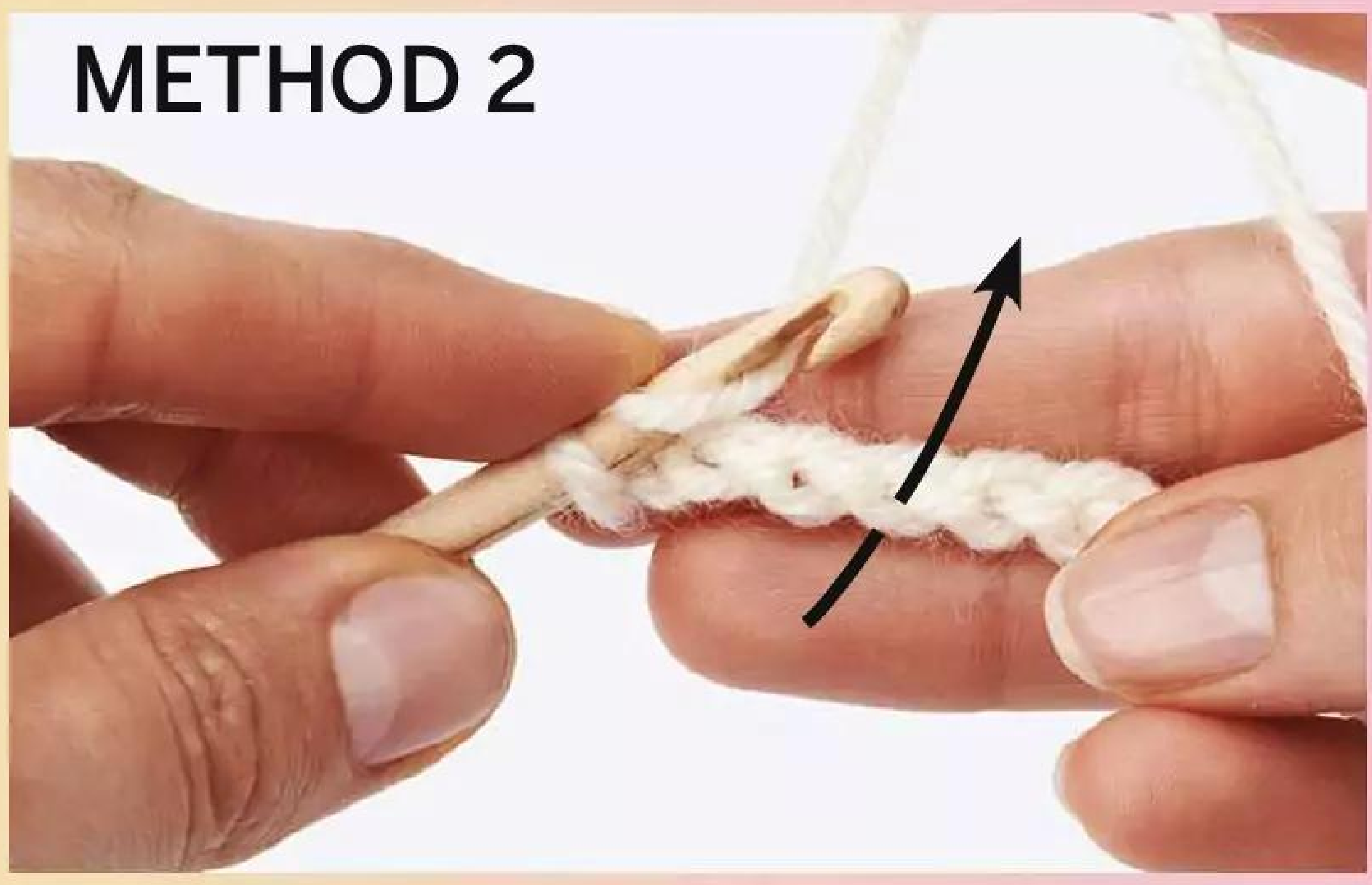
LEFT-HAND

METHOD 1



When working half treble crochet, wrap yarn round the hook first, then insert the hook into the 3rd chain from the hook, as shown above. Then continue your first half treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

METHOD 2



Wrap the yarn round the hook first for half treble crochet. Then insert your hook into the 3rd bump from the hook, on the back of the chain. Then continue your first half treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

HALF TREBLE STITCH

How to create half treble crochet stitches

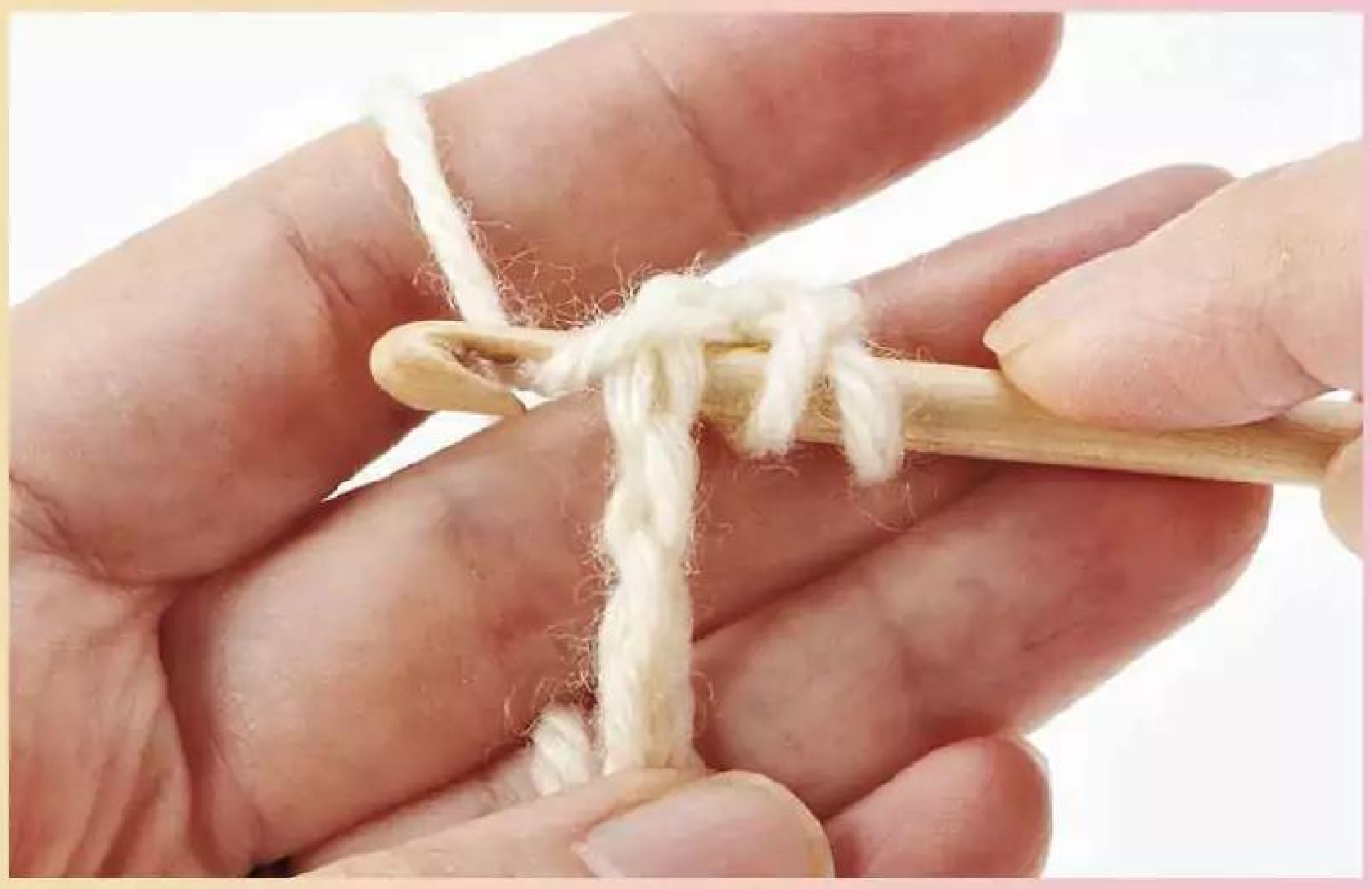
Once you have a foundation chain of 23 chains and you've inserted the hook (with yarn wrapped round) into the 3rd chain from the hook, you can make your first half treble crochet stitch (see below). It's just as easy as the treble!

Work a half treble stitch into each chain, holding the stitches firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go. Don't worry if it looks uneven – keep going to the end of the chain (don't work into the slipknot).

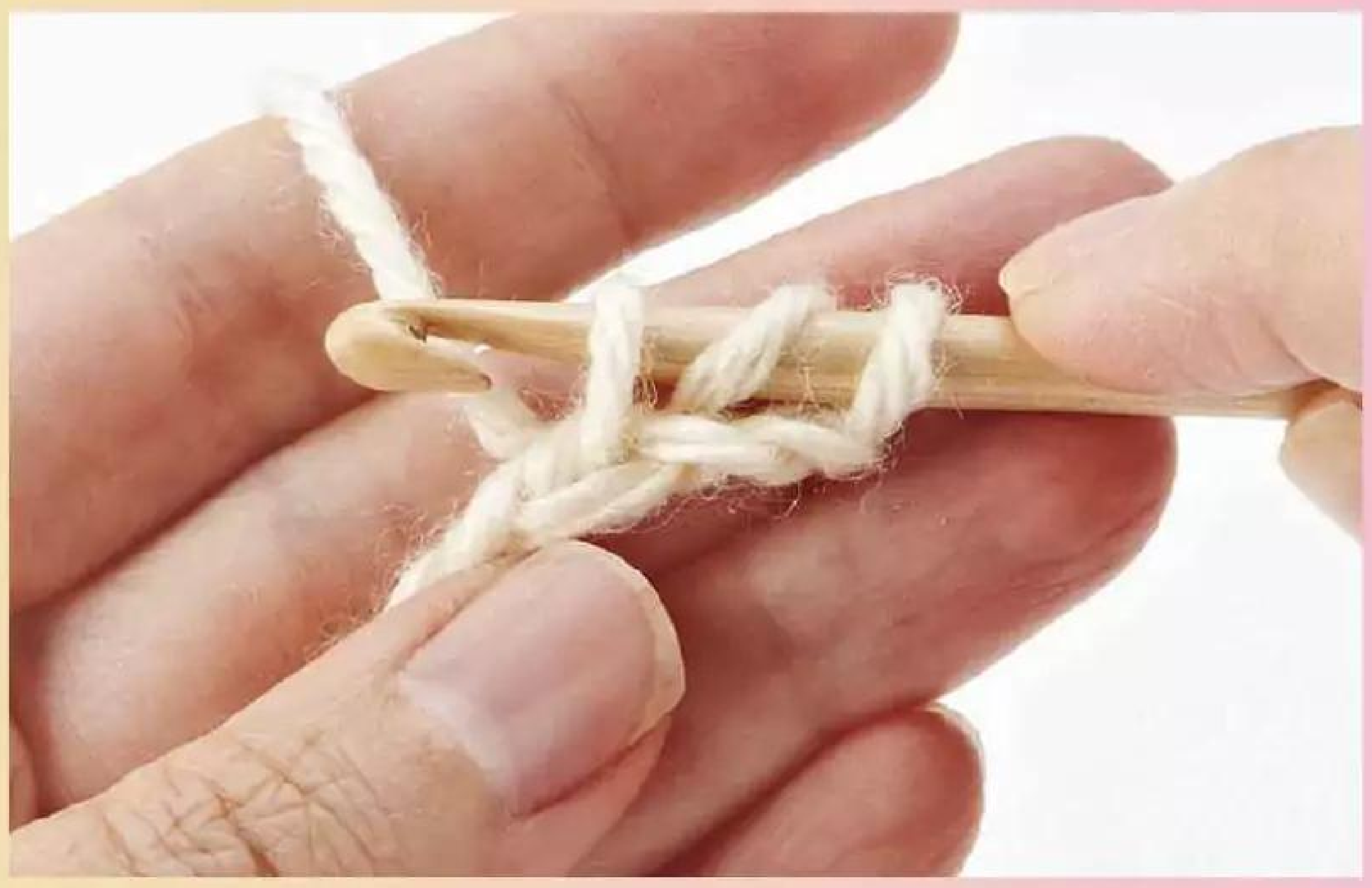
Once you've made the first row of half trebles (often called the foundation row), follow our guide (below right) to count your stitches – you should have 22 stitches. The first two chains you skipped at the start form the turning chain, will count as one stitch in half treble (we've explained this in more detail overleaf), so remember to include this in your stitch count.

RIGHT-HAND

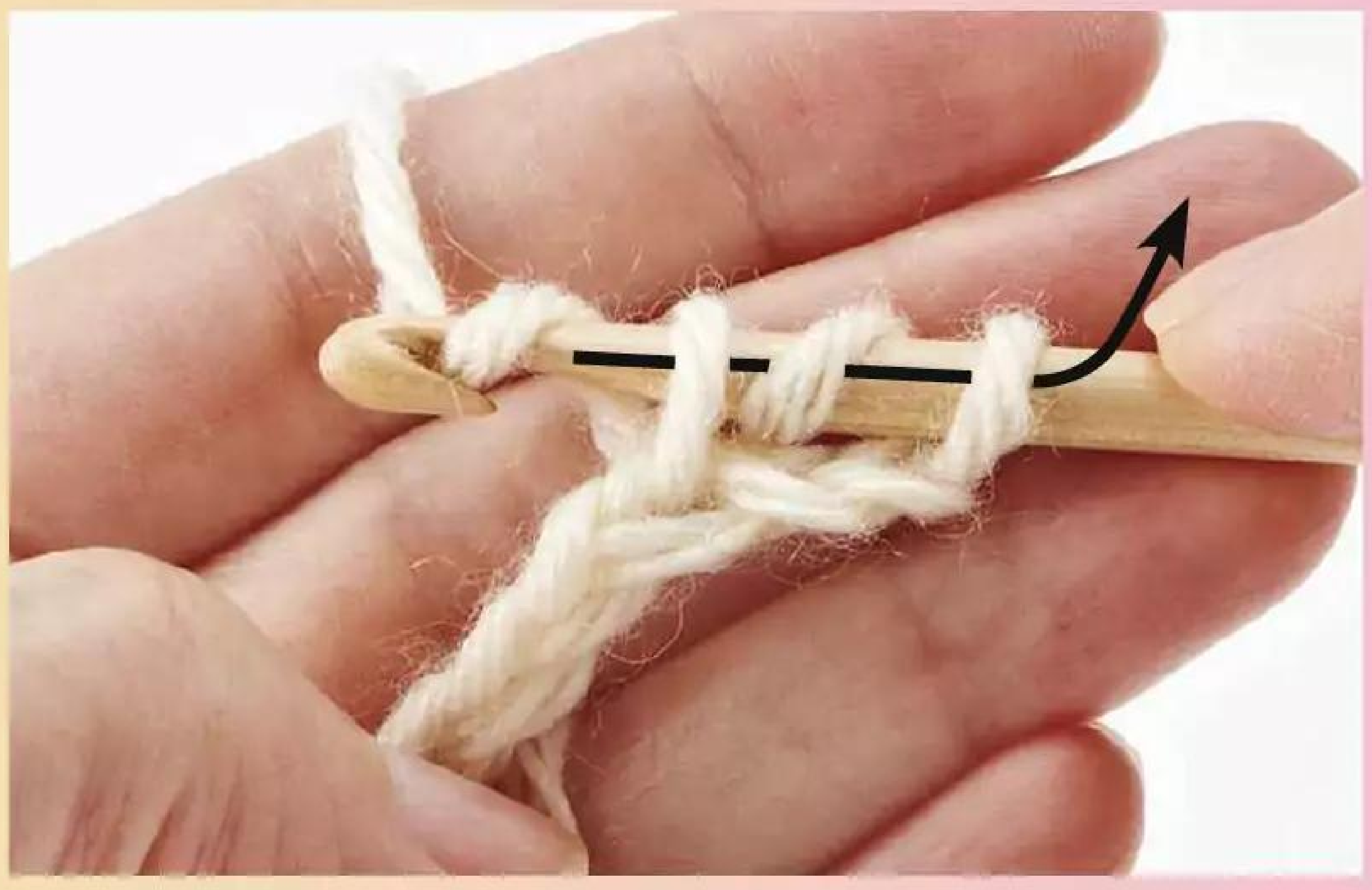
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect half treble stitch...



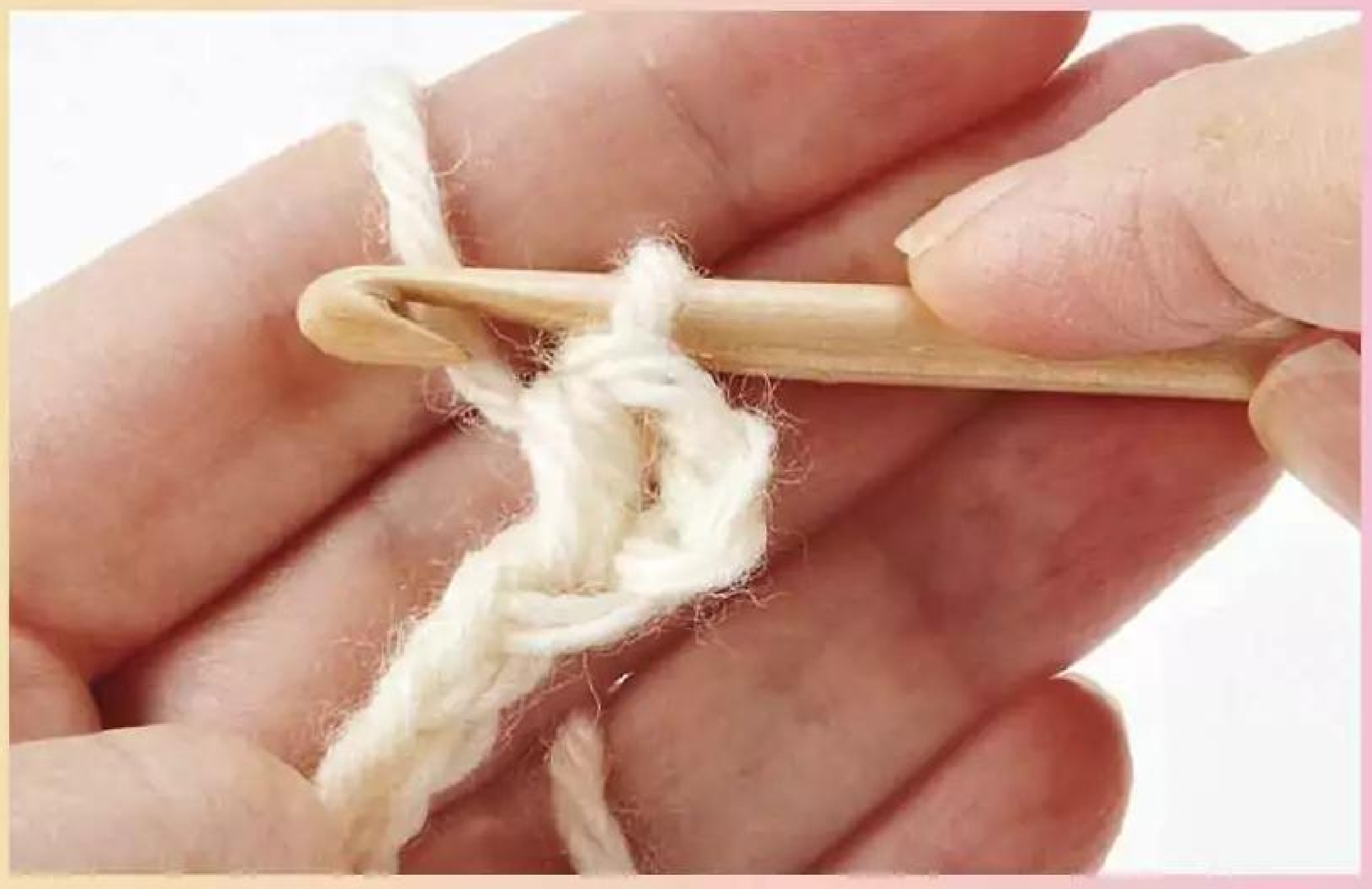
1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook and insert hook into 3rd chain from hook. Yarn round hook again.



2 Gently pull the yarn through the chain loop, so you have three loops on the hook.



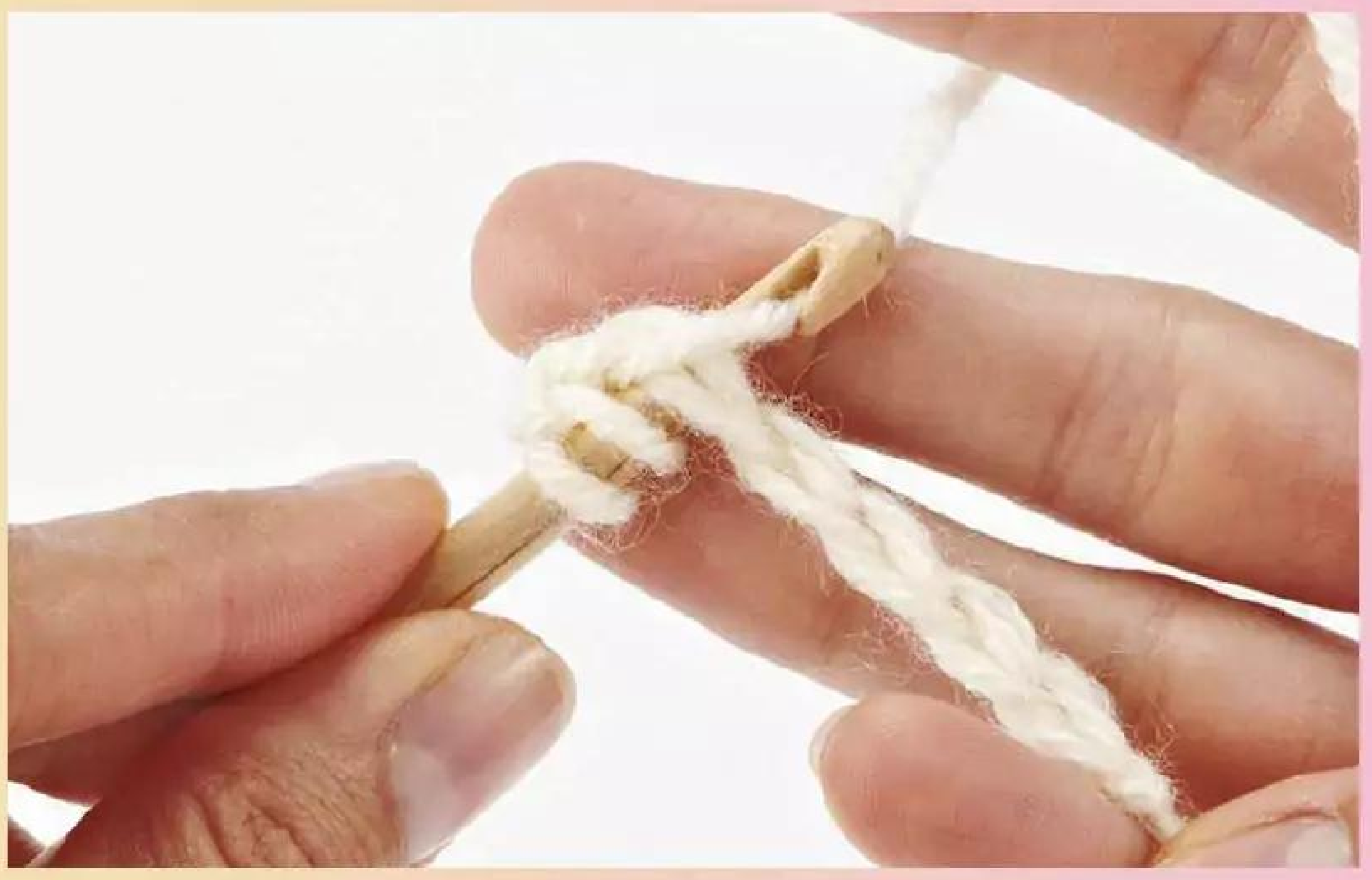
3 Work yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the three loops on the hook to finish the stitch.



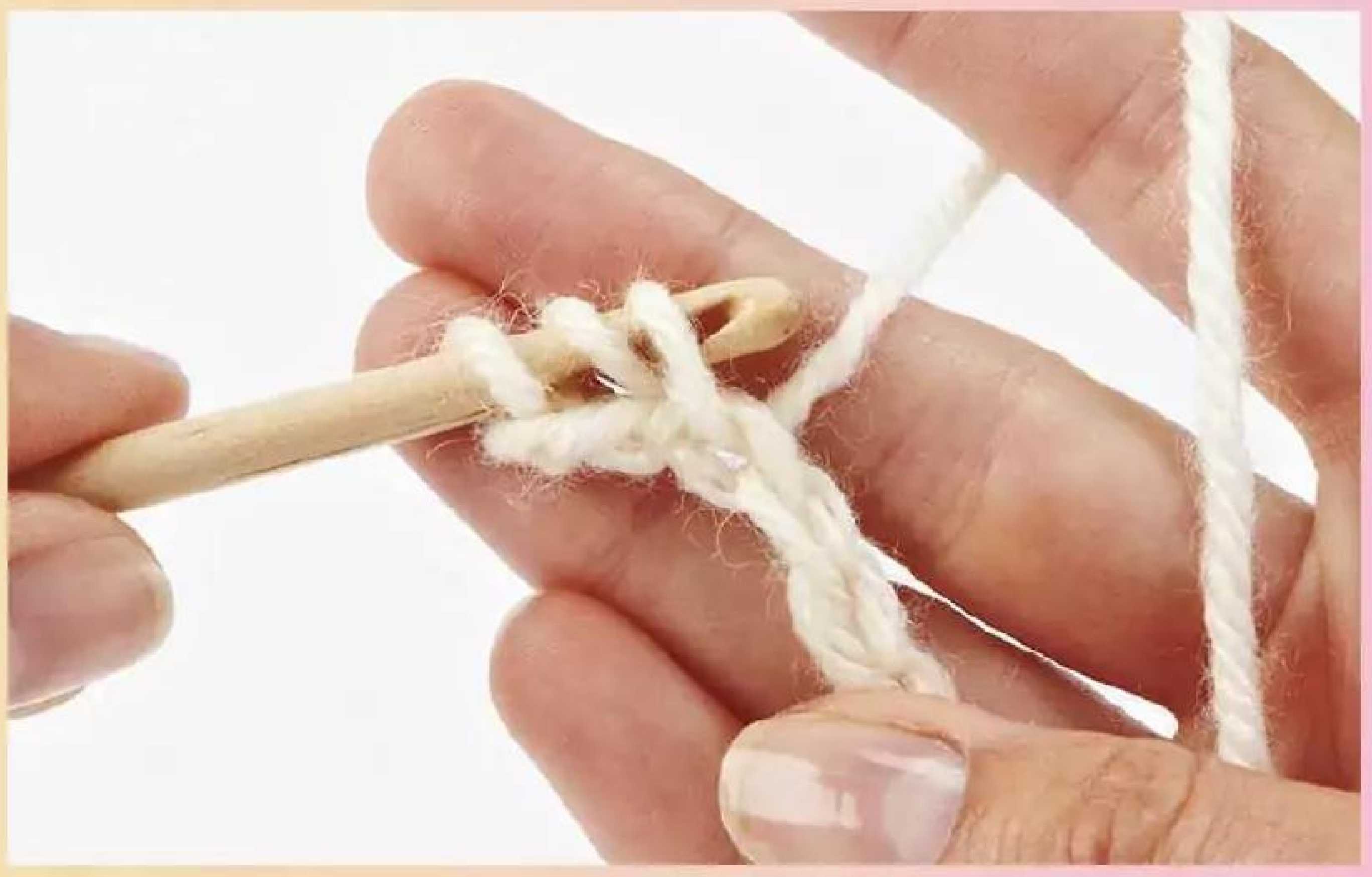
4 Your first half treble crochet stitch is finished and you can see how it sits neatly next to the 2-chain turning chain.

LEFT-HAND

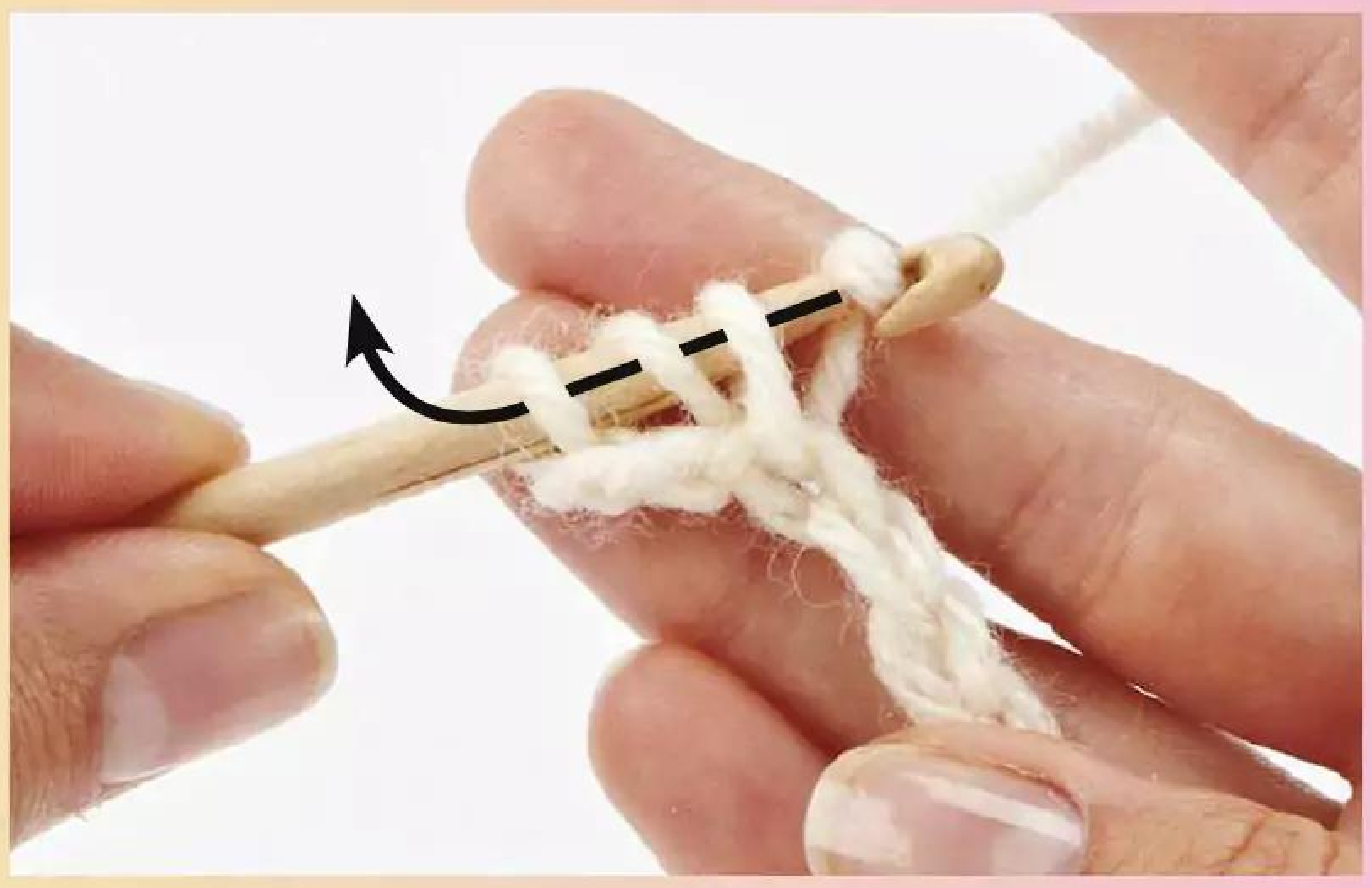
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect half treble stitch…



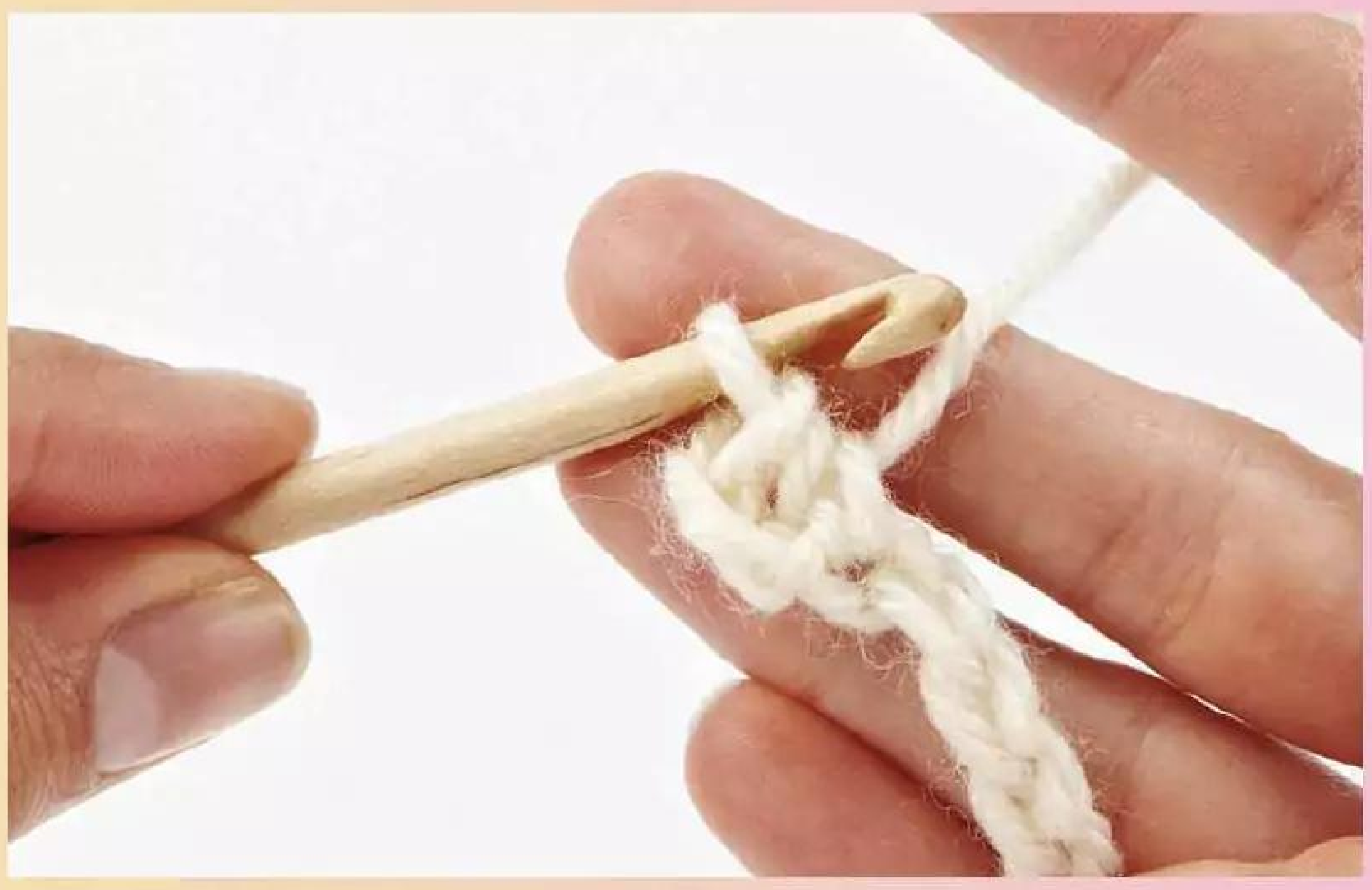
1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook and insert hook into 3rd chain from hook. Yarn round hook again.



2 Gently pull the yarn through the chain loop, so you have three loops on the hook.



3 Work yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the three loops on the hook to finish the stitch.



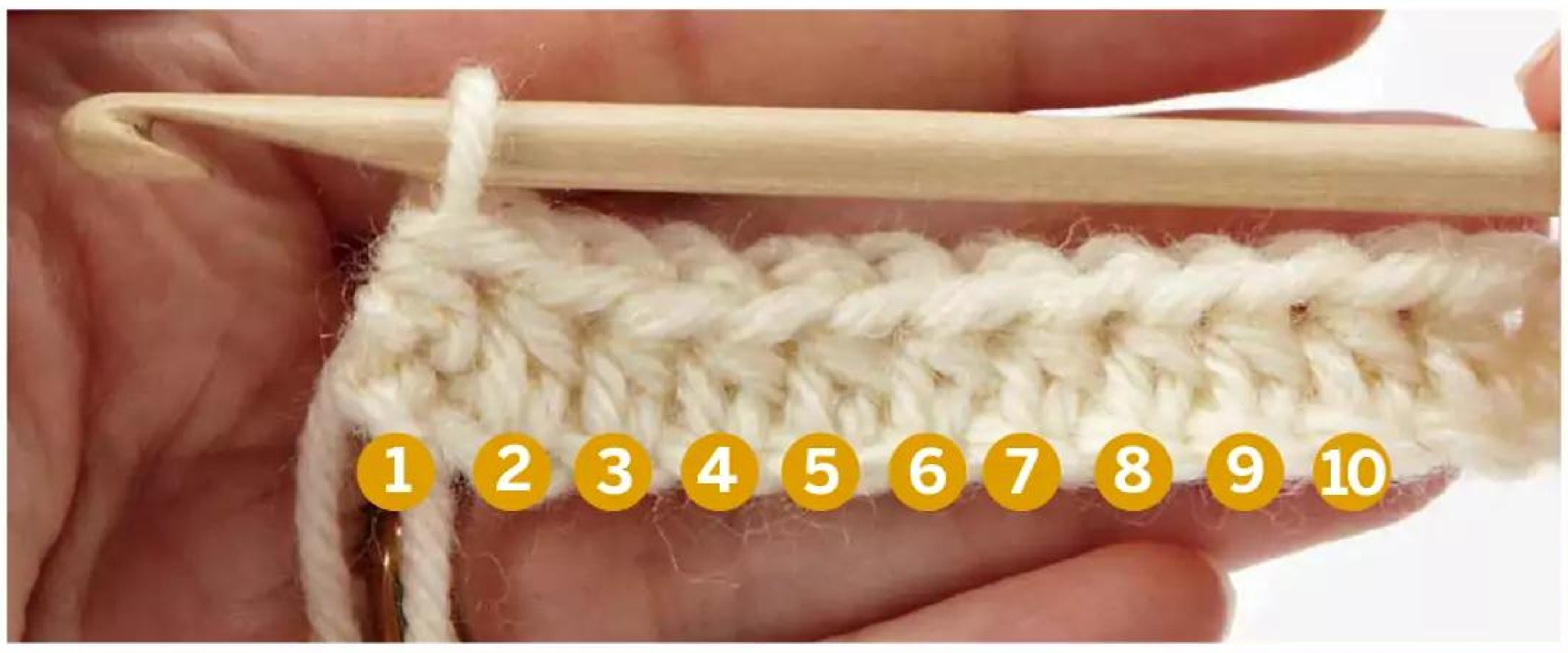
4 Your first half treble crochet stitch is finished and you can see how it sits neatly next to the 2-chain turning chain.

HOW TO COUNT STITCHES

Make sure that you have the right number of stitches

Being able to count your stitches is vital and helps to make sure you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count the stitches at the end of every row, especially after working the first row of stitches into your foundation chain.

To count half treble stitches, you can either count each v-shaped top of the stitch, or the tall side 'stem' of the stitch (see right). If you made 21ch (plus 2 t-ch), you should now have 22 half treble stitches. Do make the time to count your stitches – it's much easier than having to undo your work to find where a mistake has been made earlier on!



CHECK EACH ROW
Count your stitches after working the first row of stitches into the foundation chain

HALF TREBLE ROWS

Create more rows of half treble to make fabric

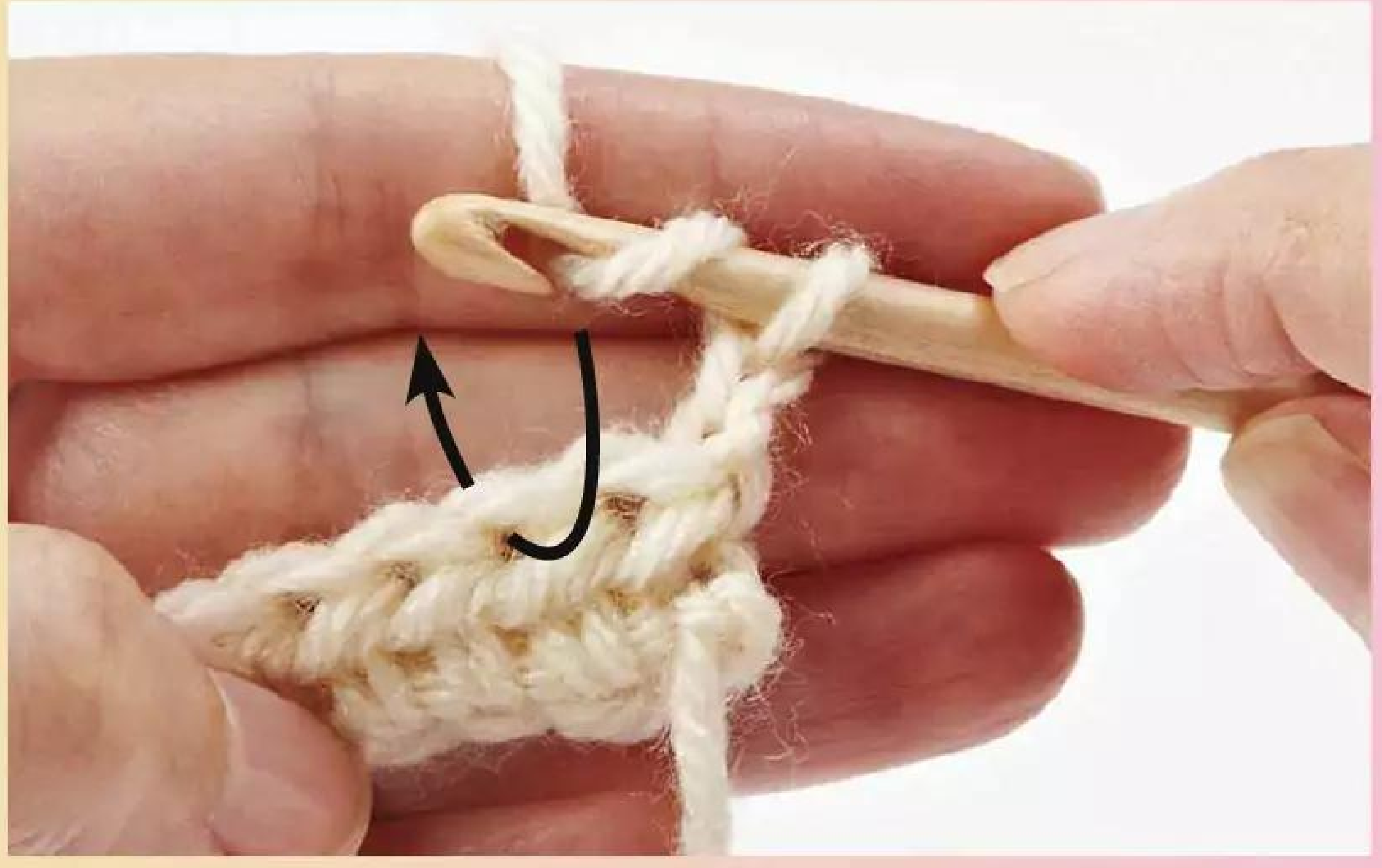
The following rows of half treble are worked in the same way as the foundation row, except you won't now be working each stitch into each chain – instead, you'll be working each stitch into the top of the stitch on the previous row (see below).

This is just as easy as working stitches into chains – the only extra technique you'll need to know is turning chains (see below right for more). In half treble rows, you need to count the turning chain (t-ch) as a stitch at the start of the row, then at the end of the row work a half treble stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous row. Have a practice and you'll soon get the hang of it.

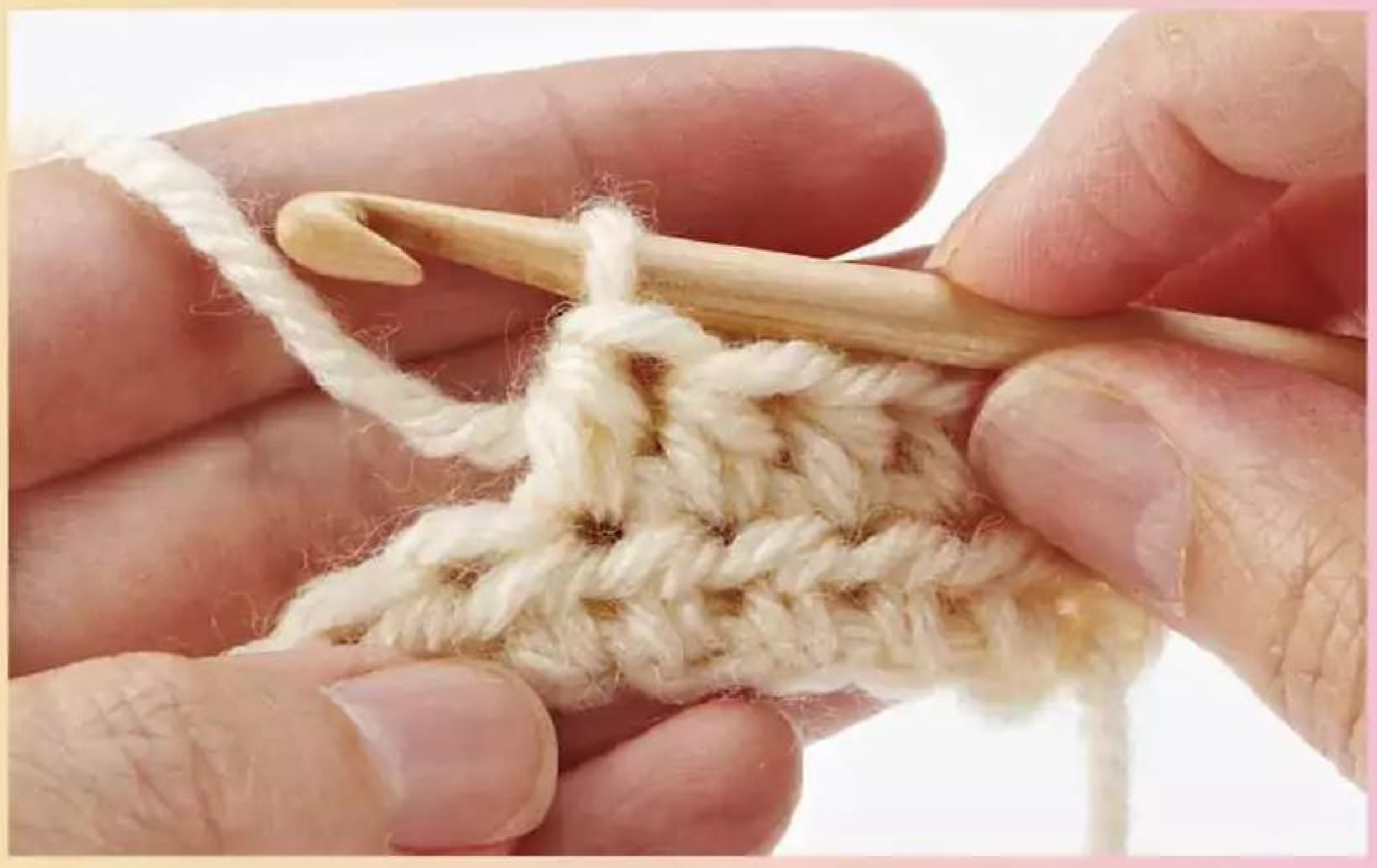
The more rows you work, the larger your piece of half treble fabric. At the end of each row, count your stitches (this is the stitch count) to check you haven't made too many or missed any.

RIGHT-HAND

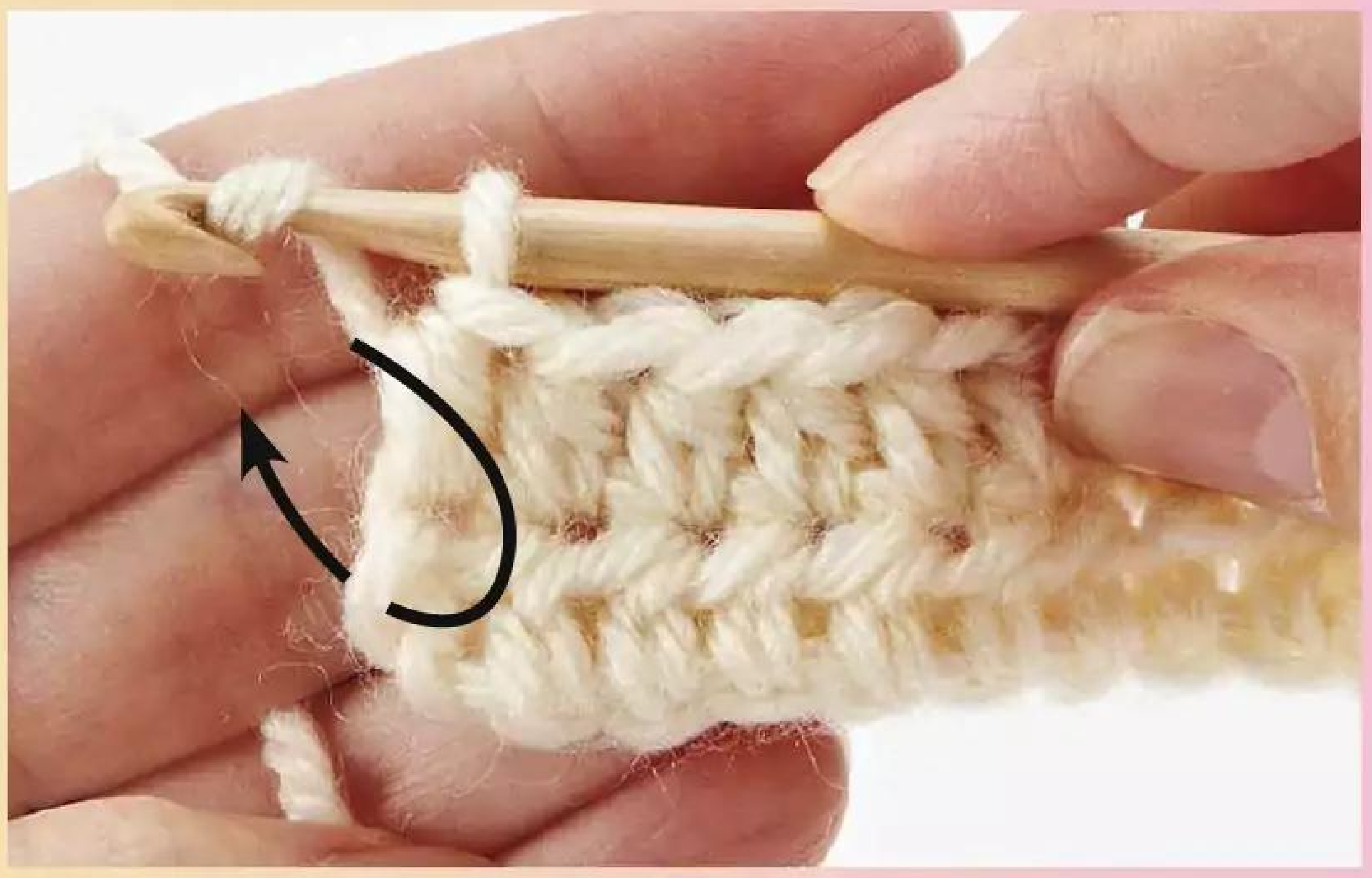
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of half treble...



1 Work two chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Work a half treble stitch as before: yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull through all three loops. Work a half treble into the top of each stitch of the previous row.

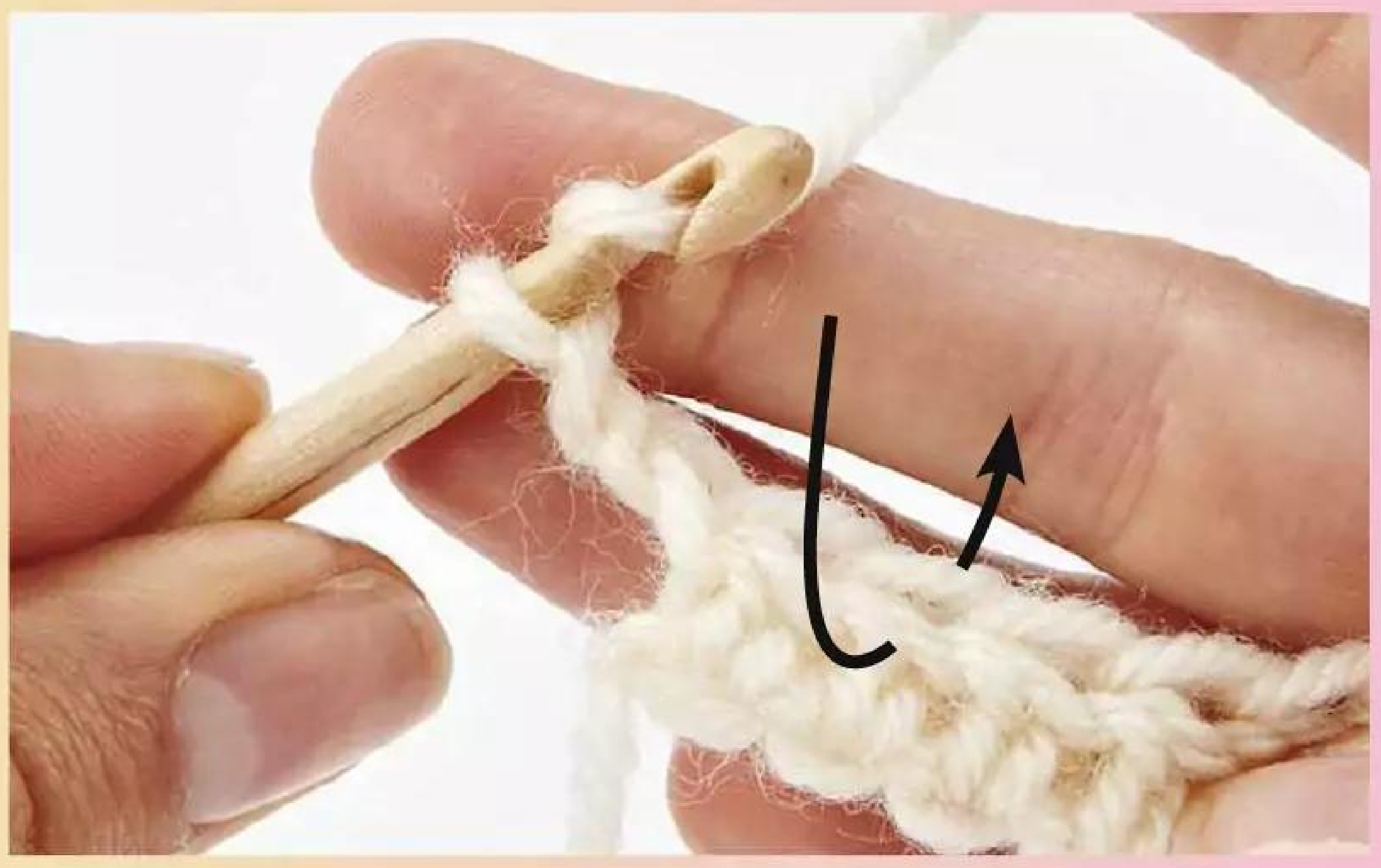


3 To finish the row of half treble stitches, work the final half treble stitch into the top chain of the two turning chains on the previous row.

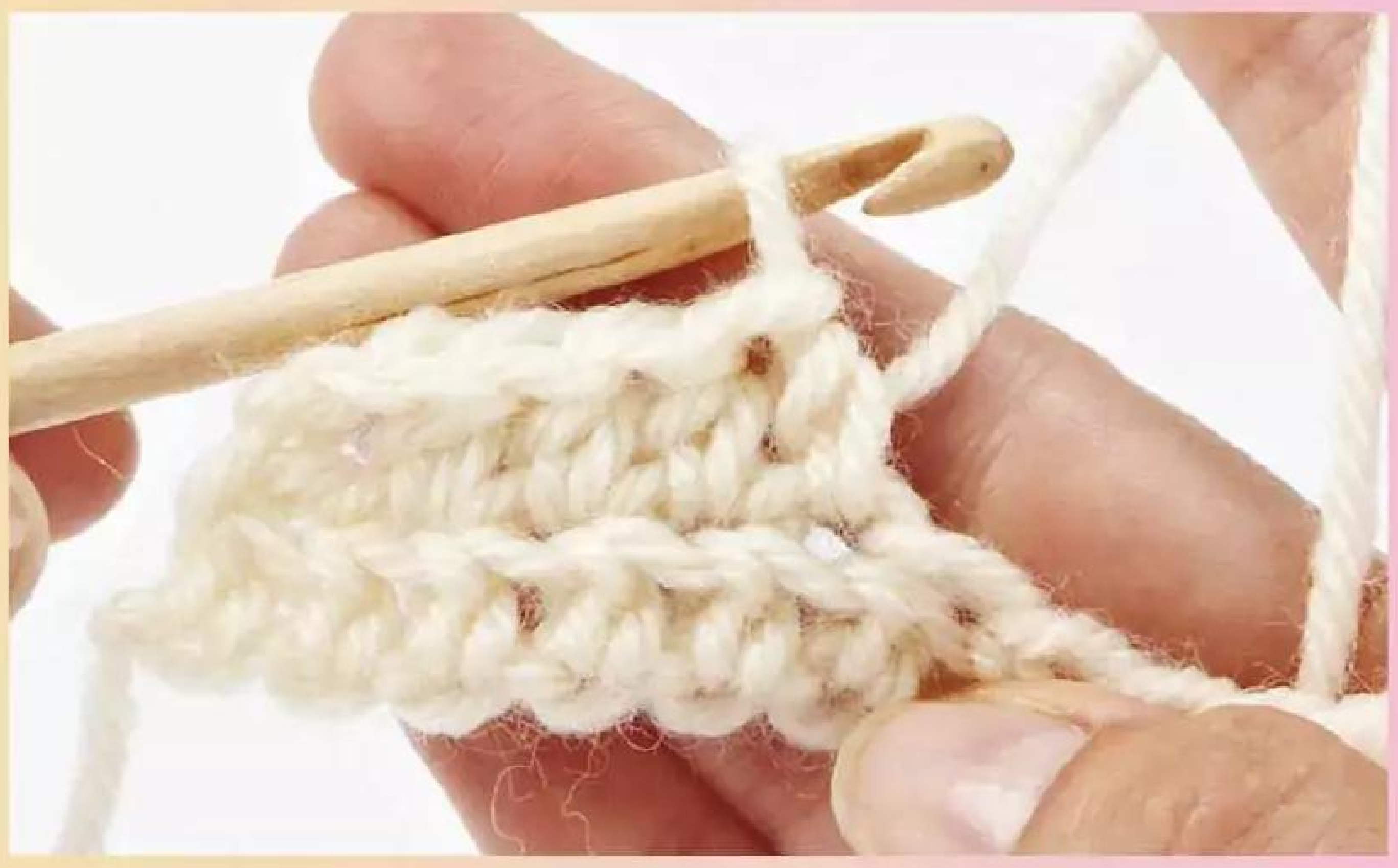
4 Your second row of half treble crochet will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

LEFT-HAND

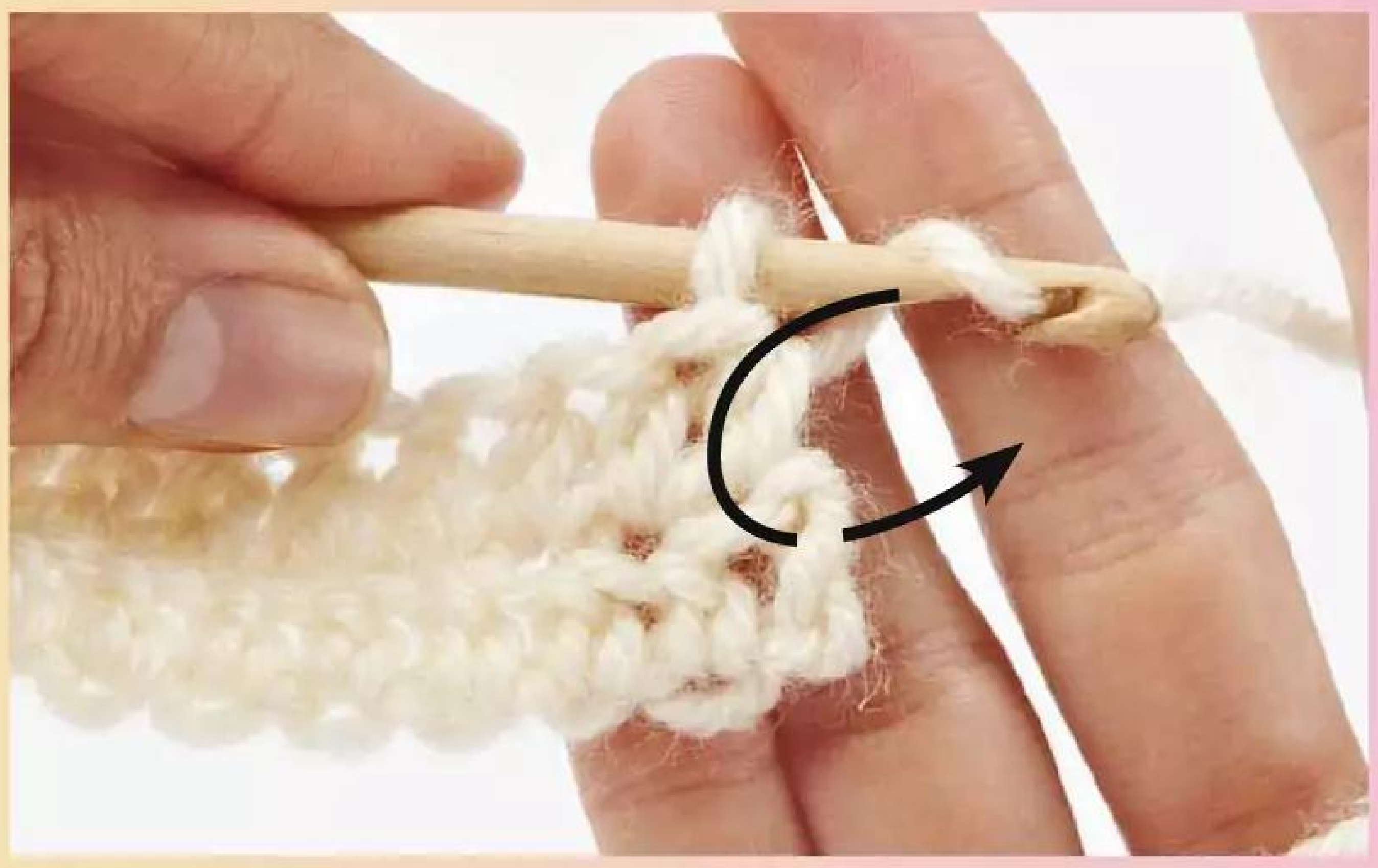
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of half treble...



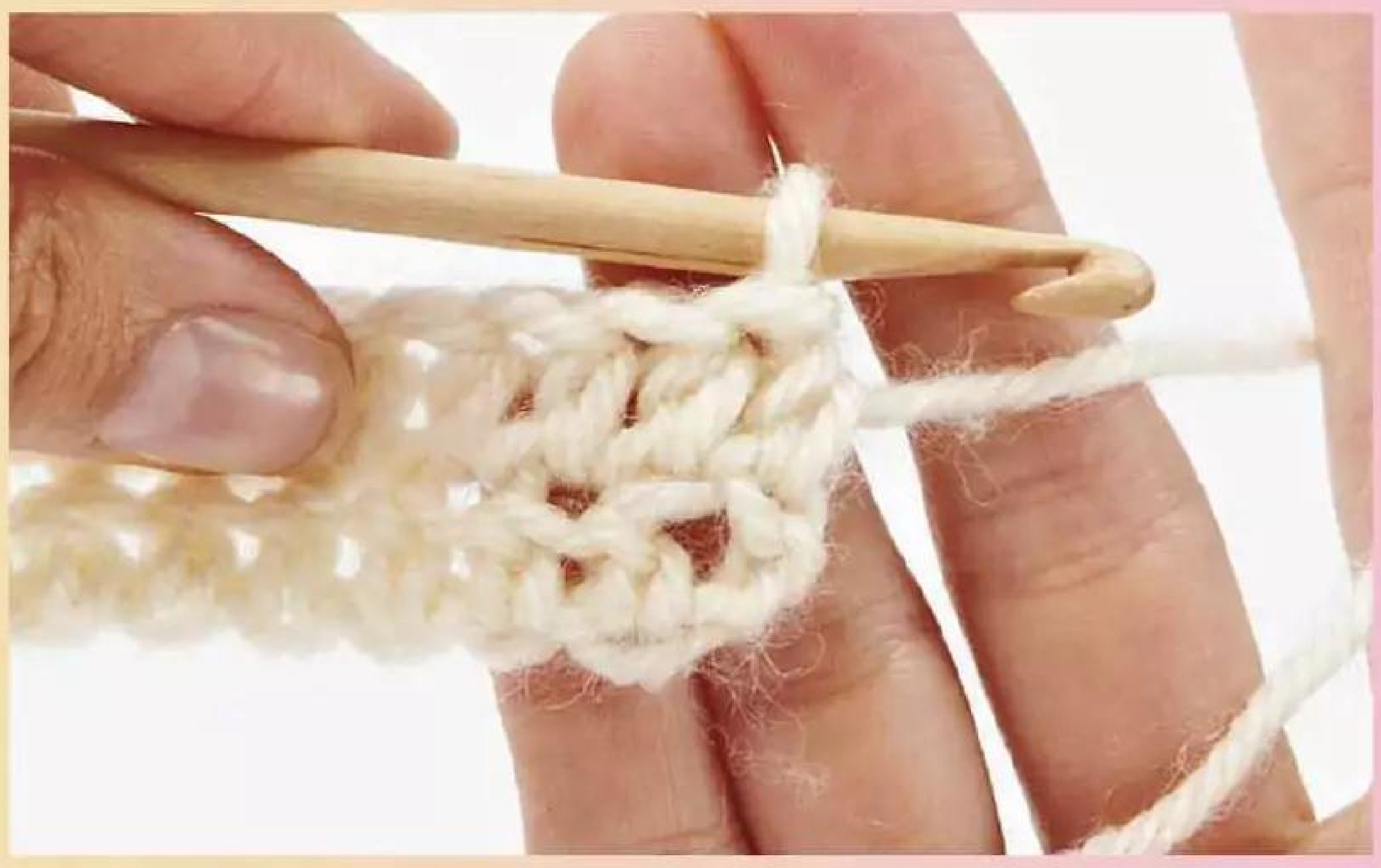
1 Work two chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Work a half treble stitch as before: yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull through all three loops. Work a half treble into the top of each stitch of the previous row.



3 To finish the row of half treble stitches, work the final half treble stitch into the top chain of the two turning chains on the previous row.



4 Your second row of half treble crochet will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

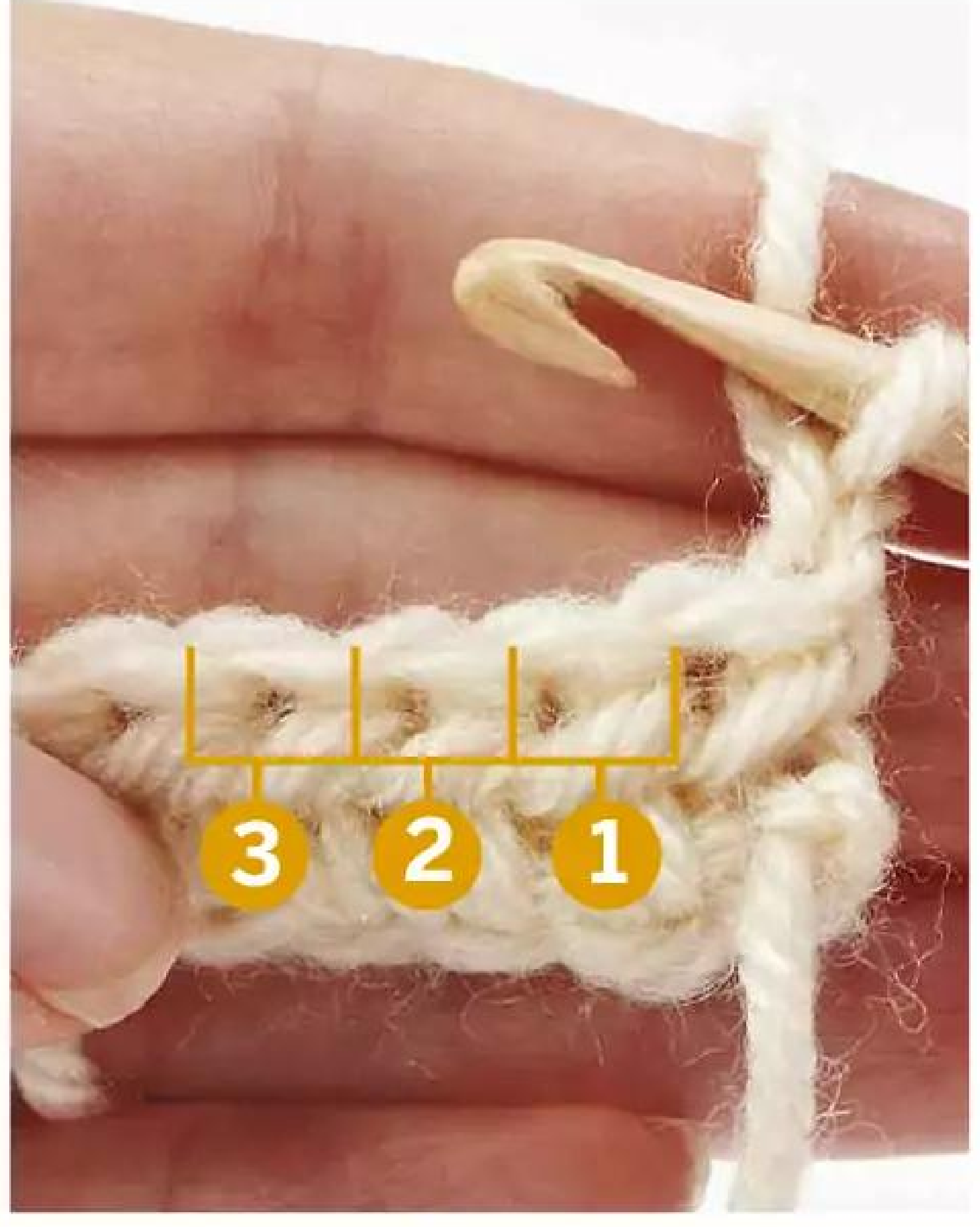
TURNING CHAINS

Use these to bring the hook up to the height of the next row

After each row of half treble, you need to turn your fabric and work the turning chain (2 chains for half treble). The picture (right) shows this done and ready to continue.

In crochet, you need to make a t-ch at the start of every row to bring the hook up to the working height for the next row. You usually make the t-ch at the start of the new row, but it was traditionally worked at the end of the row, hence its name. Different stitches need a different length of t-ch (see page 46 for more detail on turning chains).

In half treble fabric, you usually count the t-ch as the first stitch of the new row (unless the pattern states otherwise). The numbers on the image (right) show where to work your first htr stitch after the turning chain – into the top of the second stitch on the row below – you will need to skip the stitch at the base of the t-ch.



Practise half treble stitches

HALF TREBLE HAT

Hook **Paula Green**'s simple bobble hat and add in a pretty heart decoration – if you like!

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Sublime Evie (94% cotton, 6% nylon, 50g/115m)
  2 balls of Neptune (557)
  1 ball of Luna (516)

HOOK

- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

NOTIONS

- Large pompom maker
- Darning needle

TENSION AND SIZE

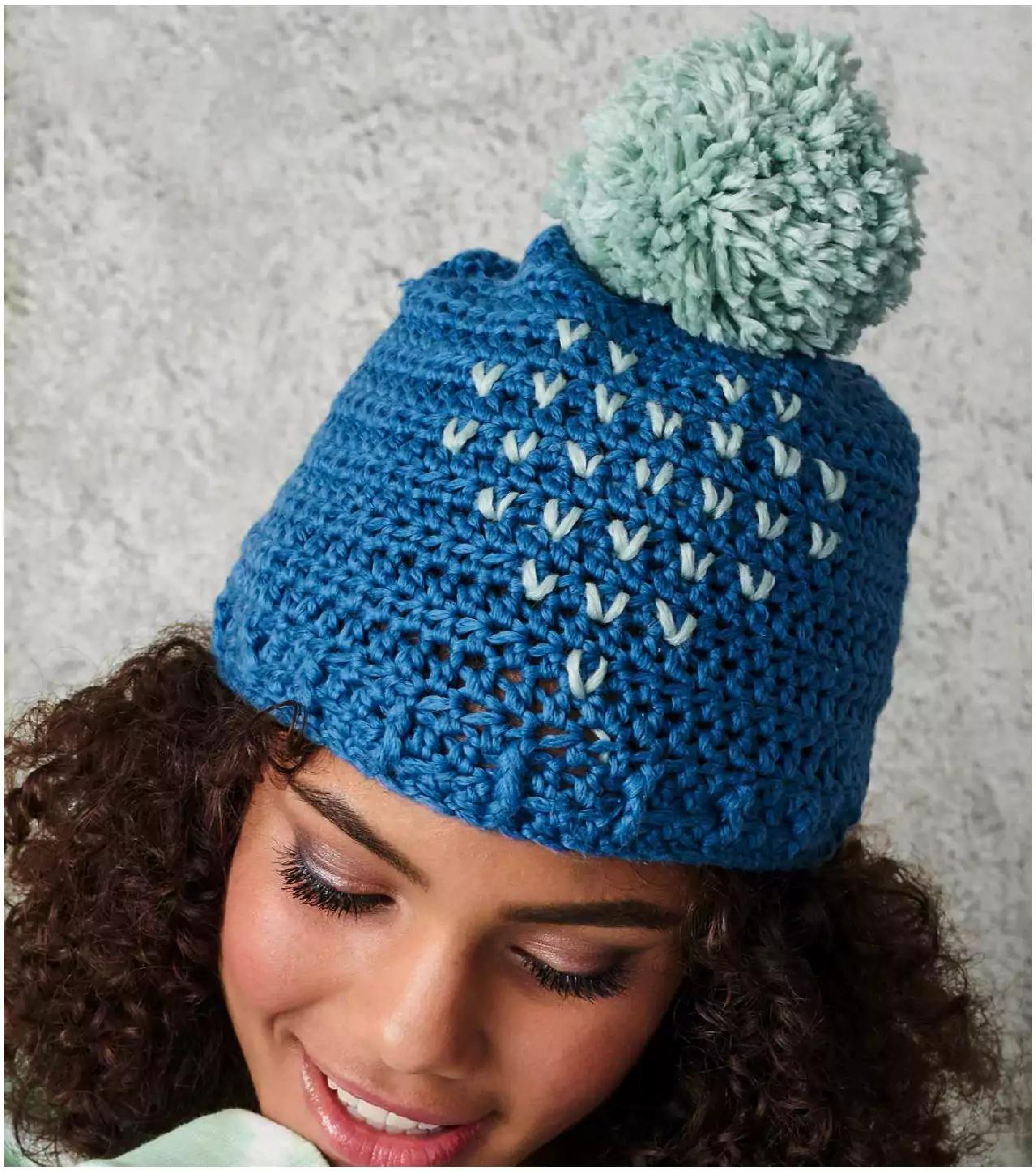
12 sts and 10 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over half treble stitch

Hat measures 50cm (19½in) in diameter once blocked

ABBREVIATIONS

BPhtr/FPhtr (Back Post Half Treble/Front Post Half Treble) Yrh, insert hook around the post of the st indicated working from the back for BPhtr and the front for FPhtr, yrh and pull up a loop, yrh and pull through all loops on hook

For a full list see page 18



If you don't have a pompom maker, simply cut out two large circles of cardboard to use instead

Try a different design on the bobble hat if you prefer – or leave it without if you like it better plain

NOTES

Hat is worked in rows and seamed together at the end. To make hat larger or smaller, work a foundation ch multiple of 5+1.

HAT

Using Neptune, ch51. (Hold loosely around your head to check it will fit at this stage, if not see Notes and reduce/enlarge chain.)

Row 1 (RS) Htr in third ch from hook, htr in each ch across, turn. [50 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), htr in first st, (BPhtr around next st, htr in next 4 sts) 9 times, BPhtr around next st, htr in final 3 sts, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, htr in first 3 sts, FPhtr around next st (BPhtr from previous row), (htr in next 4 sts, FPhtr around next st) 9 times, htr in final st, turn.

Row 4 As Round 2.

Row 5 Ch2 (counts as first htr throughout), skip st at base of ch-2, htr in next st and each st across, turn.

Repeat Row 5 until piece measures 23cm in height. To make the Hat slouchier you can work some extra rows as desired.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Fold Hat so short ends line up.

Using Neptune and with WS facing out, sew the short ends together to form a tube.

Thread Neptune onto a darning needle and weave yarn through each st of final round. Pull yarn tight to close the top of the Hat, sew some extra sts to secure and weave in ends.

For best results block Hat (see p127).

Using Luna make a pompom and attach to top of Hat.

HEART DESIGN (OPTIONAL)

Using Luna sew a small v shape around central st at front over Row 6, next sew 3 v shapes over row 8 lining up the central sts and leaving 1 htr between each v, sew 5 v shapes over row 10 and 12 (these should line up), and finally over Row 14 sew 4 v shapes leaving a space over the central st. You can use the image as a guide.

Weave in any remaining ends.

DOUBLE TREBLE FABRIC

This long stitch creates a lovely, lacy fabric

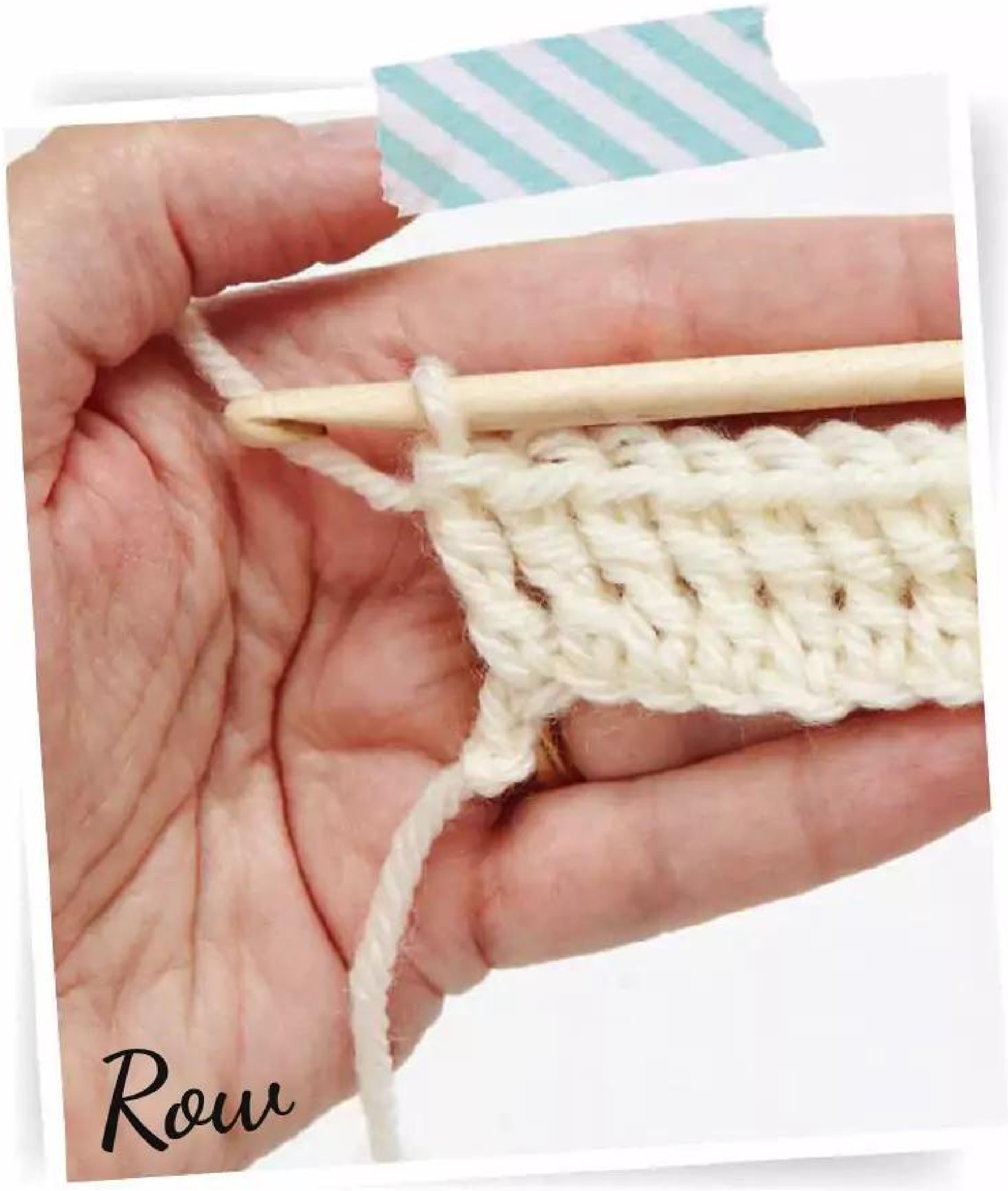
The longer the crochet stitch, the lacier the fabric you can create. Double treble stitches are long, lacy stitches that are easy to work. It's abbreviated as dtr, and called treble crochet in the US.

The double treble stitch is worked in a similar way to a treble stitch, but with more yrh's. This means it's longer than a treble stitch. Double trebles create a light, lacy fabric with an open texture, so it's a great stitch for delicate shawls, edgings and many more projects.

Crocheters usually describe the pattern effect on the crochet fabric as a 'stitch pattern'. If you work rows of double treble stitches on every row, back and forth, you'll create a simple double treble stitch pattern (see below right).

Below left is an example of double treble stitches worked in one row. Repeat these rows to create double treble fabric, shown below right. You'll see that the stitch pattern creates rows of tall stitches. In rows, double treble fabric looks the same on the front and the back, which can be useful. In rounds, double treble fabric gives a different effect on each side. Whichever method you're using to work the fabric, a pattern will always tell you which is the right and wrong side.

Work through our guide to learn the double treble stitch and then have a go at our napkin edgings on page 104. Once you can work the double treble in rows, it's easy to work it in rounds and to work double treble decreases, using the same sort of techniques we've already covered for working trebles. You'll be able to experiment making your own edgings for napkins, pillow cases and more.

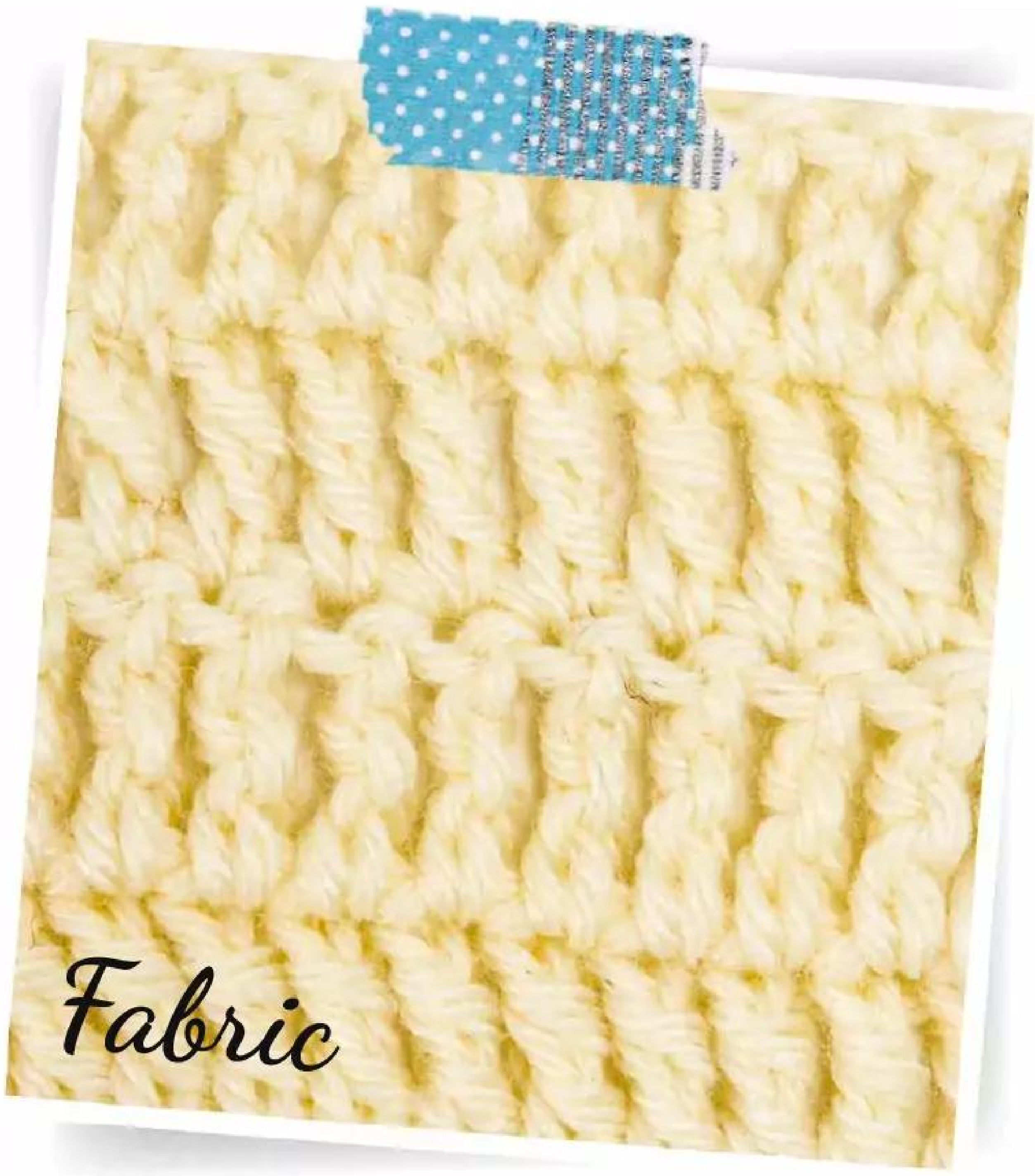


① LONG ROWS

Each double treble stitch is worked into each chain stitch, creating a long, lacy pattern on the side of the stitch and a neat 'v' shape at the top of the stitch.

② LACY FABRIC

Double treble fabric is quite lacy and open, with a loose drape. The long stitches create a delicate texture.



HIP TO BE SQUARE

For every stitch you learn and practise, crochet up a square or two, using different colours if you like. Then sew them all together to make a fab throw that will become a great reference guide as well. Try using DK yarn, a 4mm hook and about 22 stitches to make a 10cm (4in) square, or 33 stitches to make a larger 15cm (6in) square. Make a foundation chain of 21 or 32 chains, then the t-ch of 4ch (counts as a stitch). Then work a double treble into each of the 21 or 32 chains to the end. Turn, make the t-ch and double treble into the 2nd stitch and each stitch to the end of the row. Repeat until you have a square, then fasten off.

DOUBLE TREBLE IDEAS

The light, lacy fabric created using double treble crochet stitches is perfect for all sorts of lace projects, especially shawls, edgings and summer garments.

DOUBLE TREBLE INTO CHAINS

How to crochet double treble stitches into your chain length

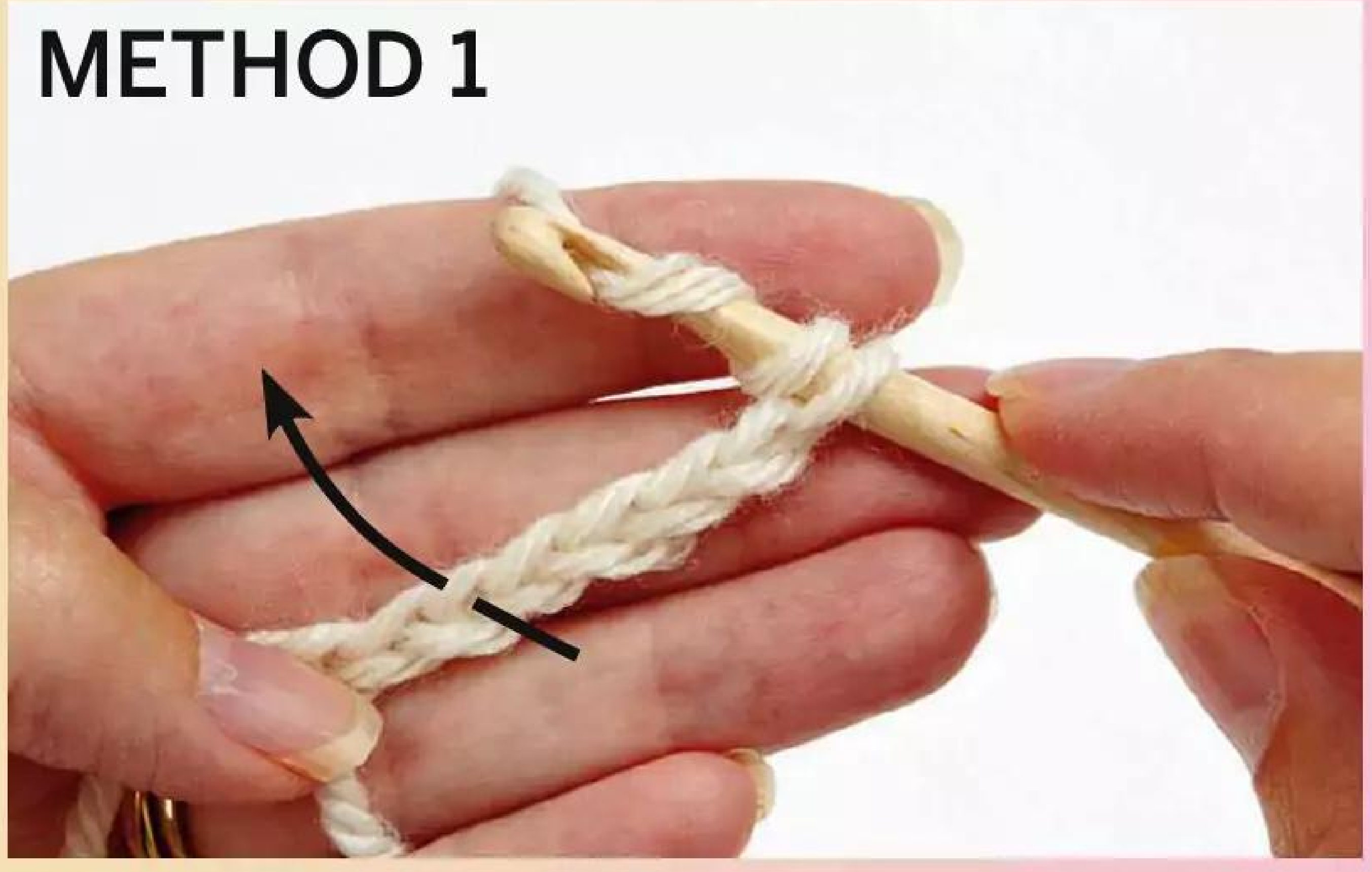
Start off by making a chain length – try 25 chains. Then you can use one of the methods below to start working double treble stitches into the foundation chain. One method might suit you better, so try both.

Make sure you insert the hook under two loops of the chain stitch (the top front loop and the loop at the back of the chain). Some patterns ask you to insert the hook under just the top front loop of the chain, and you can also use this method if your chain is a bit tight. If it's very tight, undo the chain length and rework it using a larger hook. Then switch back to the smaller hook.

You'll find that Method 2 gives your fabric a neater, more solid finish and maintains the plaited look of the front of the chain.

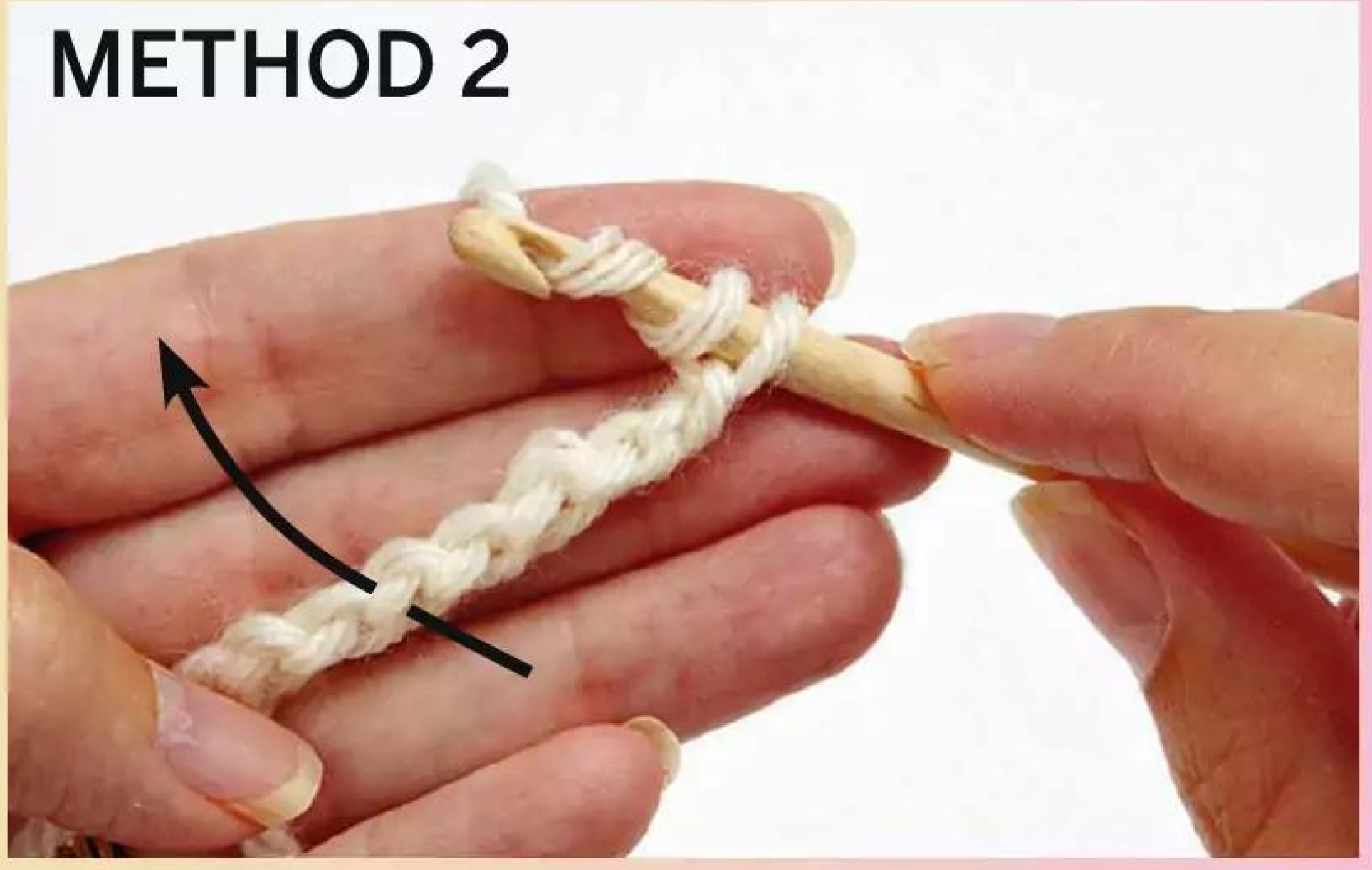
RIGHT-HAND

METHOD 1



When working a double treble stitch, work yrh twice, then insert the hook into the 5th chain from the hook, as shown above. Then continue your first double treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

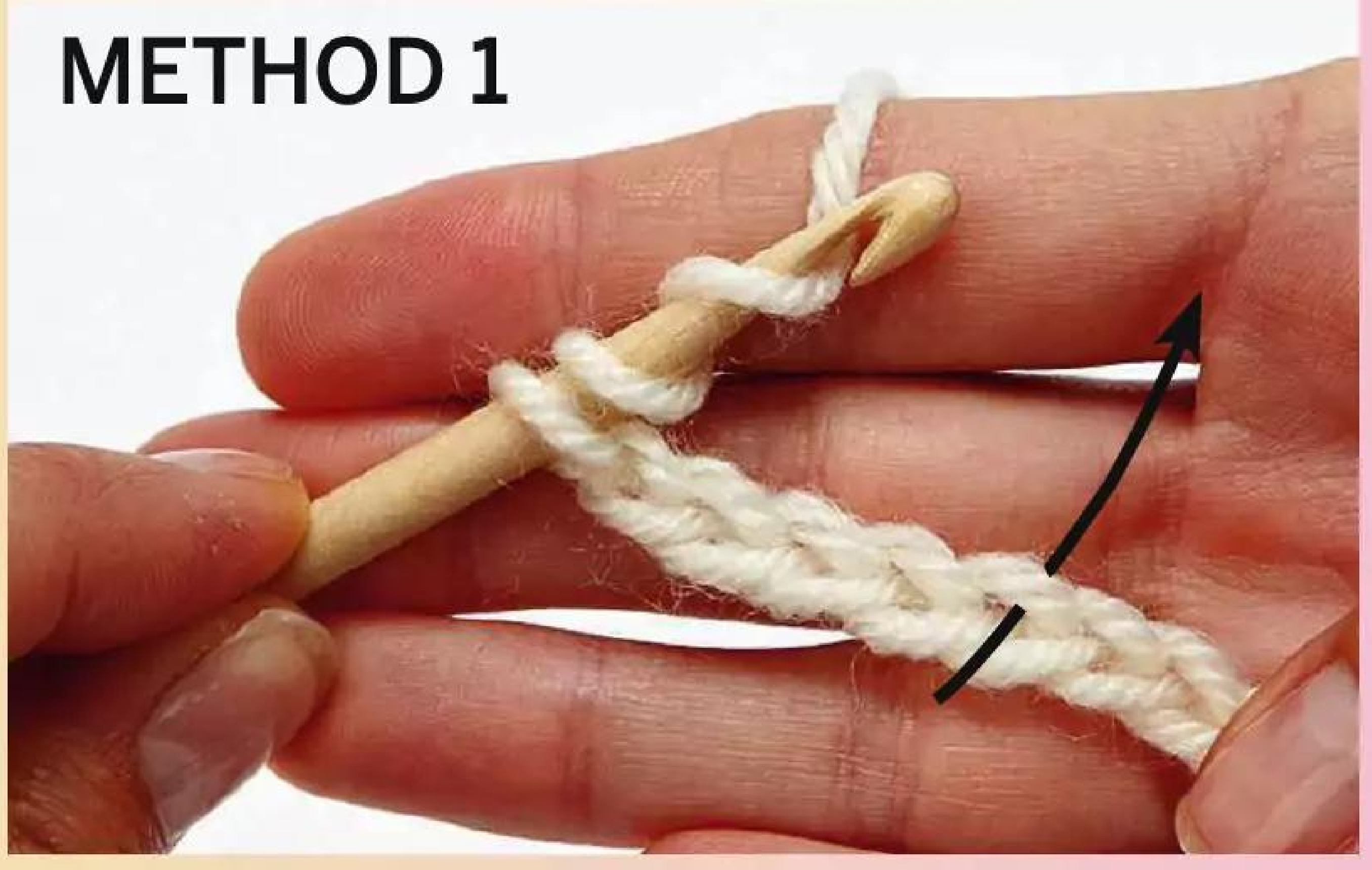
METHOD 2



Wrap the yarn round the hook twice for a double treble stitch. Then insert your hook into the 5th bump from the hook, on the back of the chain. Then continue your first double treble, as instructed overleaf.

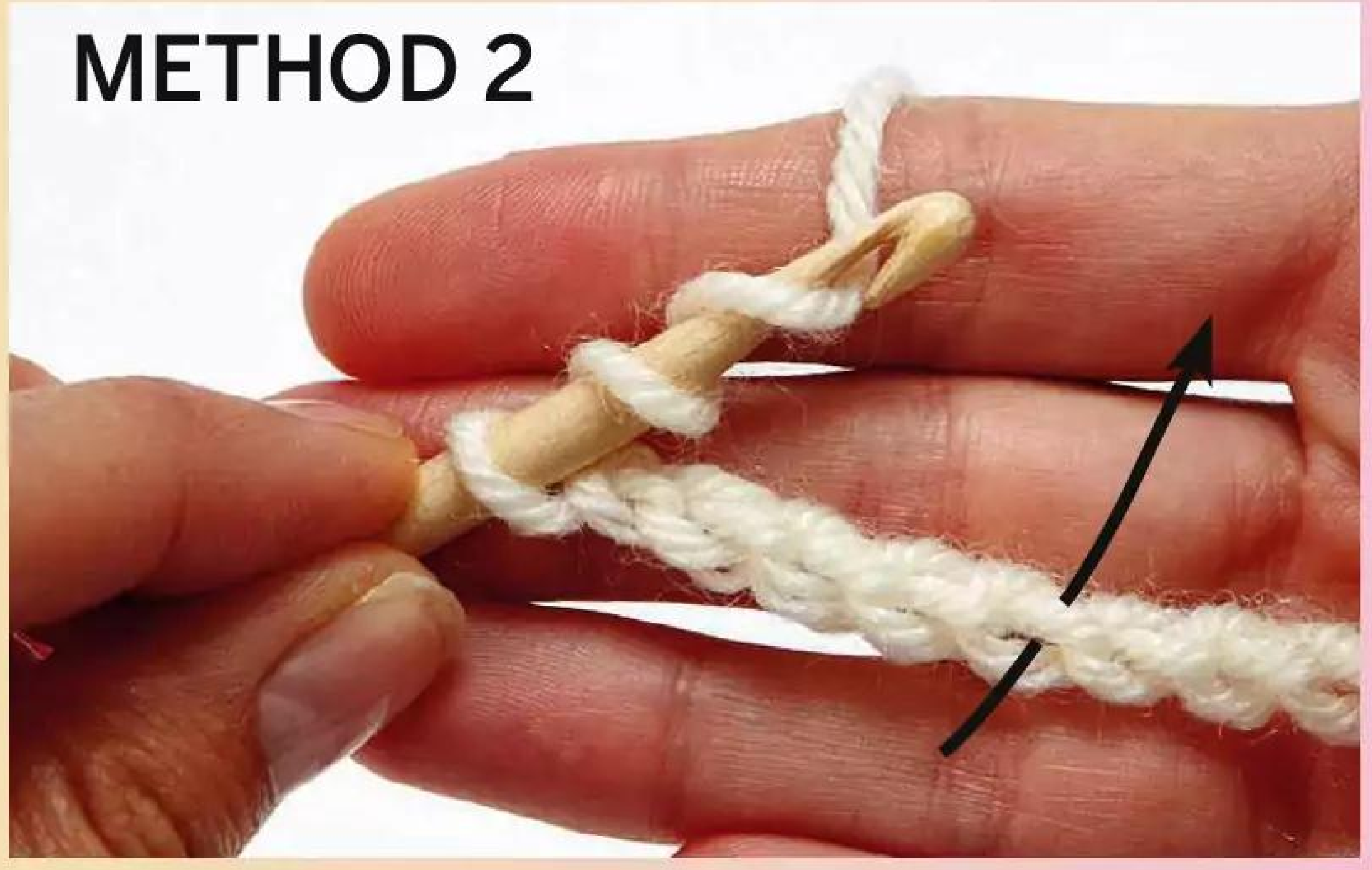
LEFT-HAND

METHOD 1



When working a double treble stitch, work yrh twice, then insert the hook into the 5th chain from the hook, as shown above. Then continue your first double treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

METHOD 2



Wrap the yarn round the hook twice for a double treble stitch. Then insert your hook into the 5th bump from the hook, on the back of the chain. Then continue your first double treble, as instructed overleaf.

DOUBLE TREBLE STITCH

How to create double treble crochet stitches – it's easy!

Once you have a foundation chain of 25 chains and you've inserted the hook (with yarn wrapped round twice) into the 5th chain from the hook, you can make your first double treble crochet stitch (see below). It's just as easy as making treble stitches, with a few more twists involved!

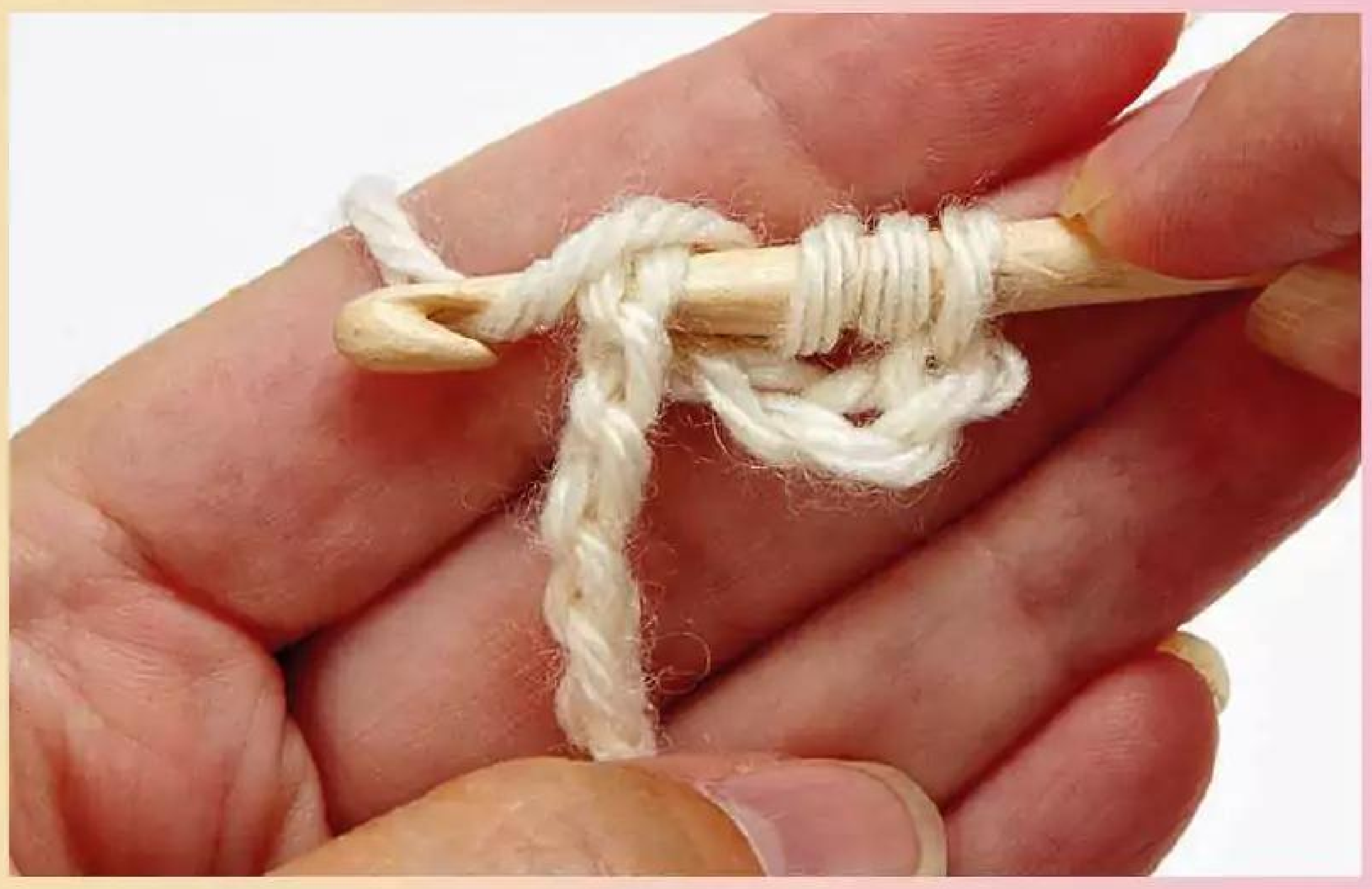
Work a double treble stitch into each chain, holding the stitches firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go. Don't worry if it looks uneven – keep going to the end of the chain (don't work into the slipknot).

Once you've made the first row of double trebles (often called the foundation row), follow our guide (below right) to count your stitches – you should have 22 stitches.

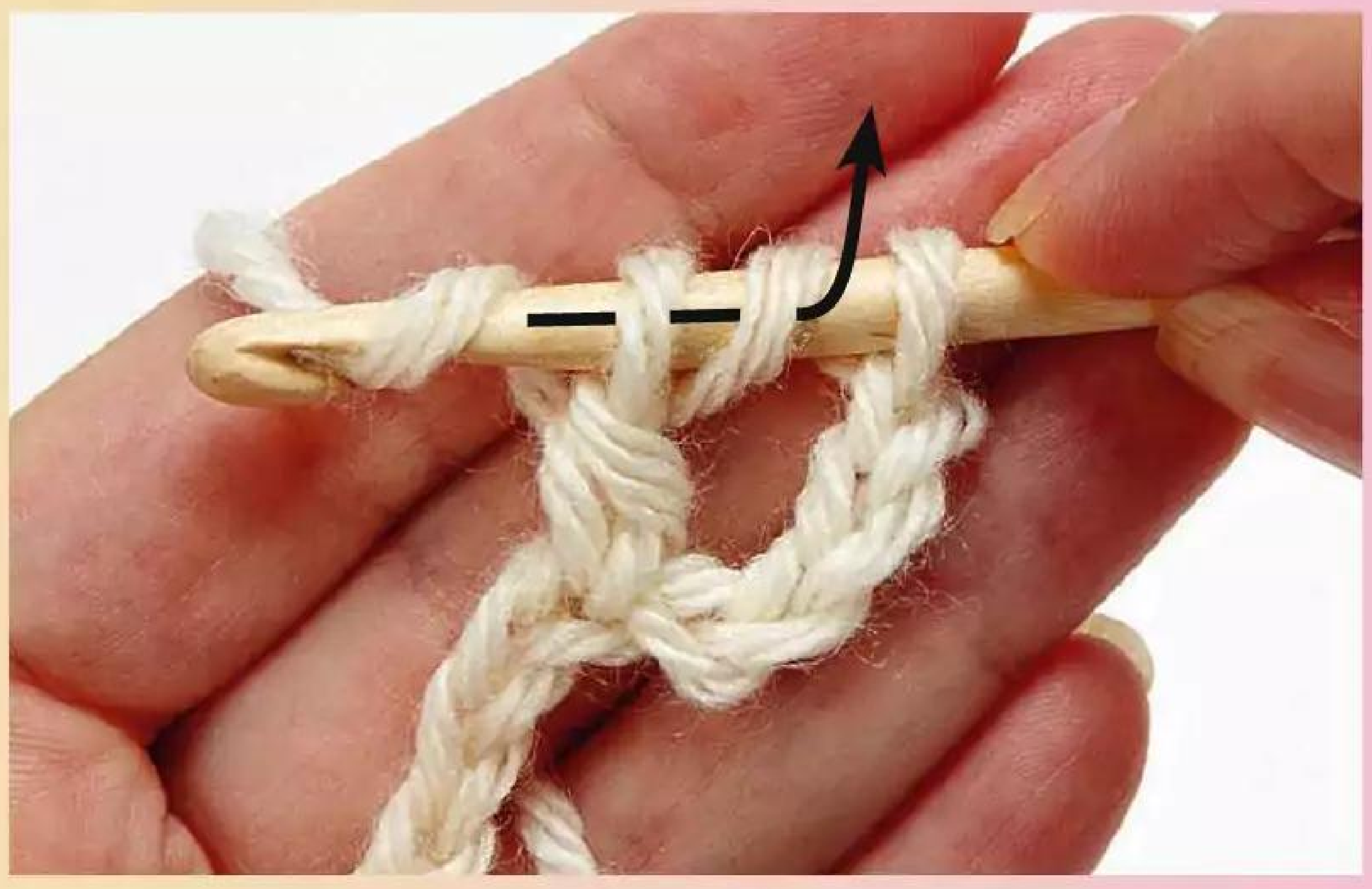
The first four chains you skipped at the start form the turning chain, which counts as one stitch in double treble (we've explained this in more detail overleaf), so include this in your stitch count. As always, you can do a swatch for practice.

RIGHT-HAND

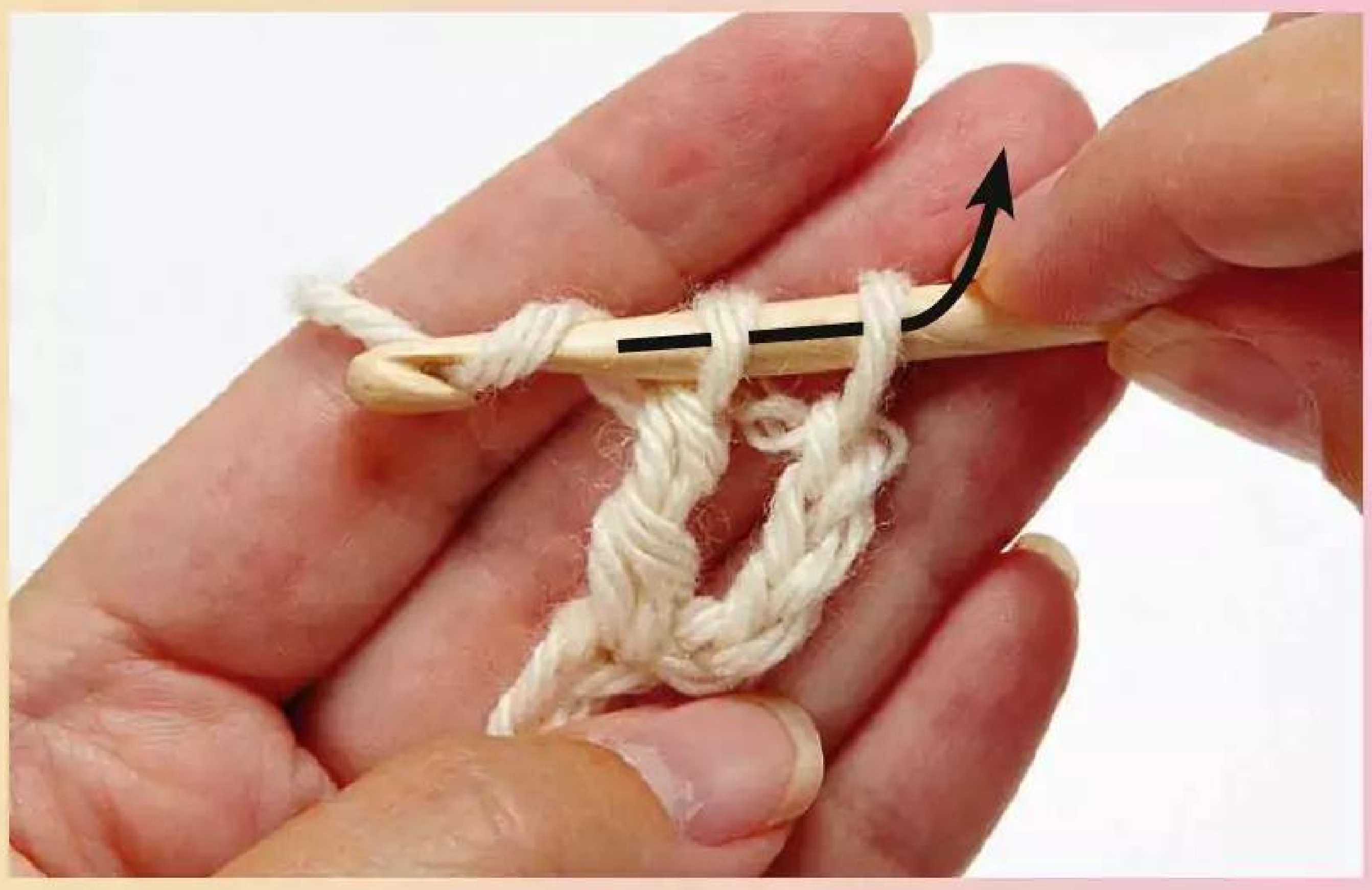
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double treble stitch...



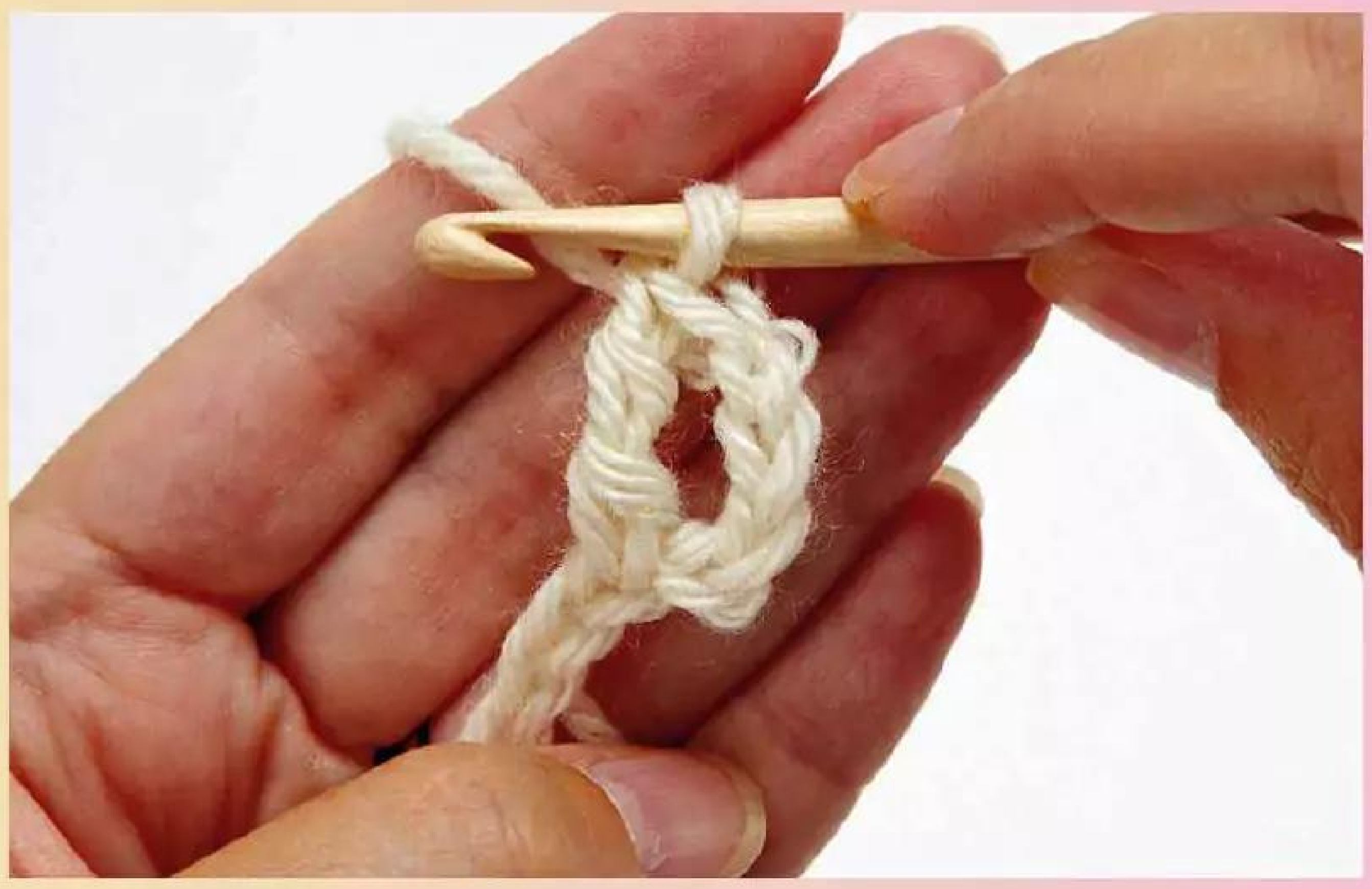
1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook twice and insert hook into 5th chain from hook. Yarn round hook again.



2 Gently pull the yarn through the chain loop (4 loops on hook). Yrh and gently pull the yarn through the first two loops on the hook only (3 loops on hook). Yrh again.



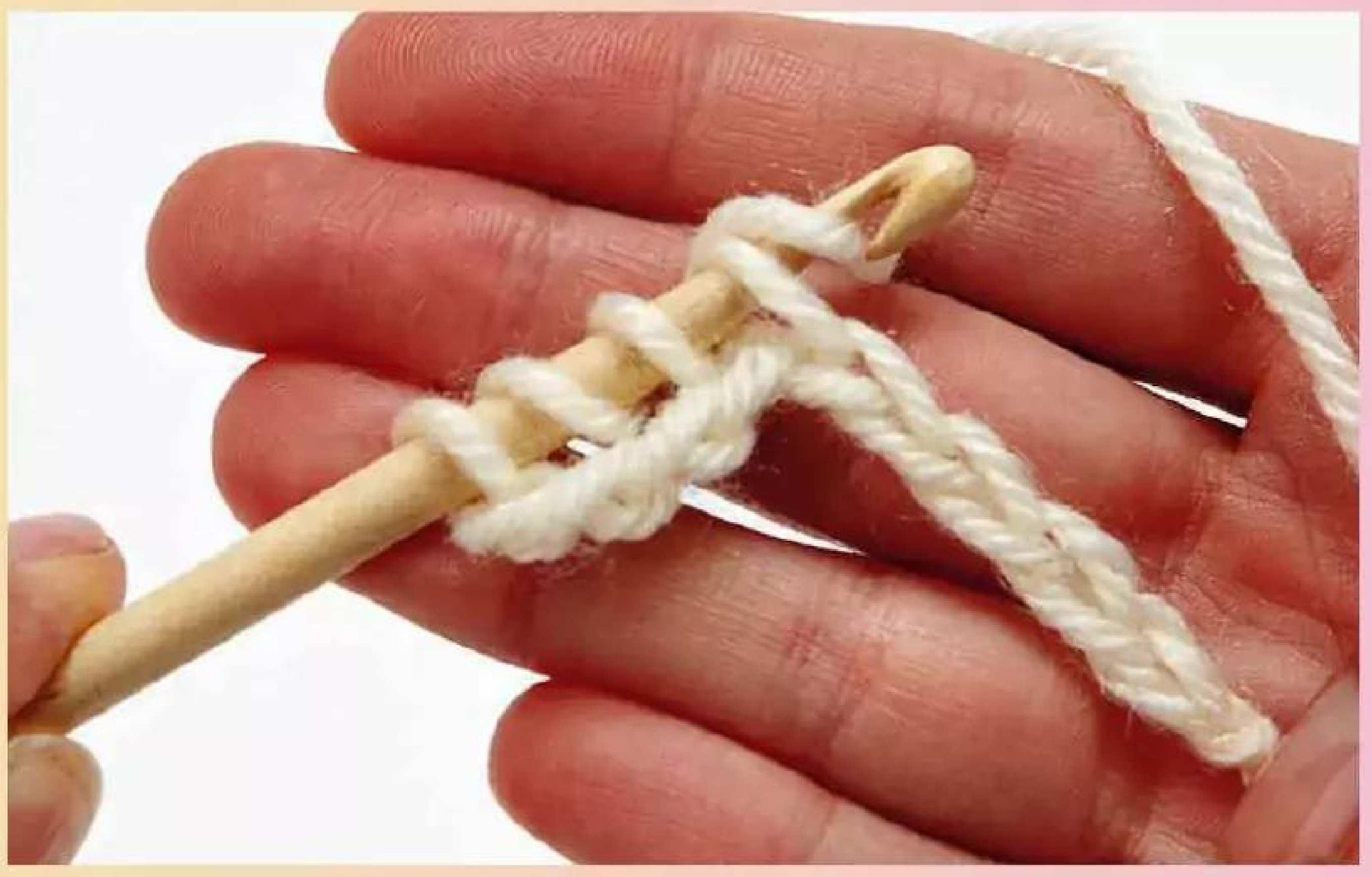
3 Gently pull the yarn through the first two loops on the hook only (2 loops on hook). Yrh and gently pull the yarn through the 2 loops on the hook to finish the stitch.



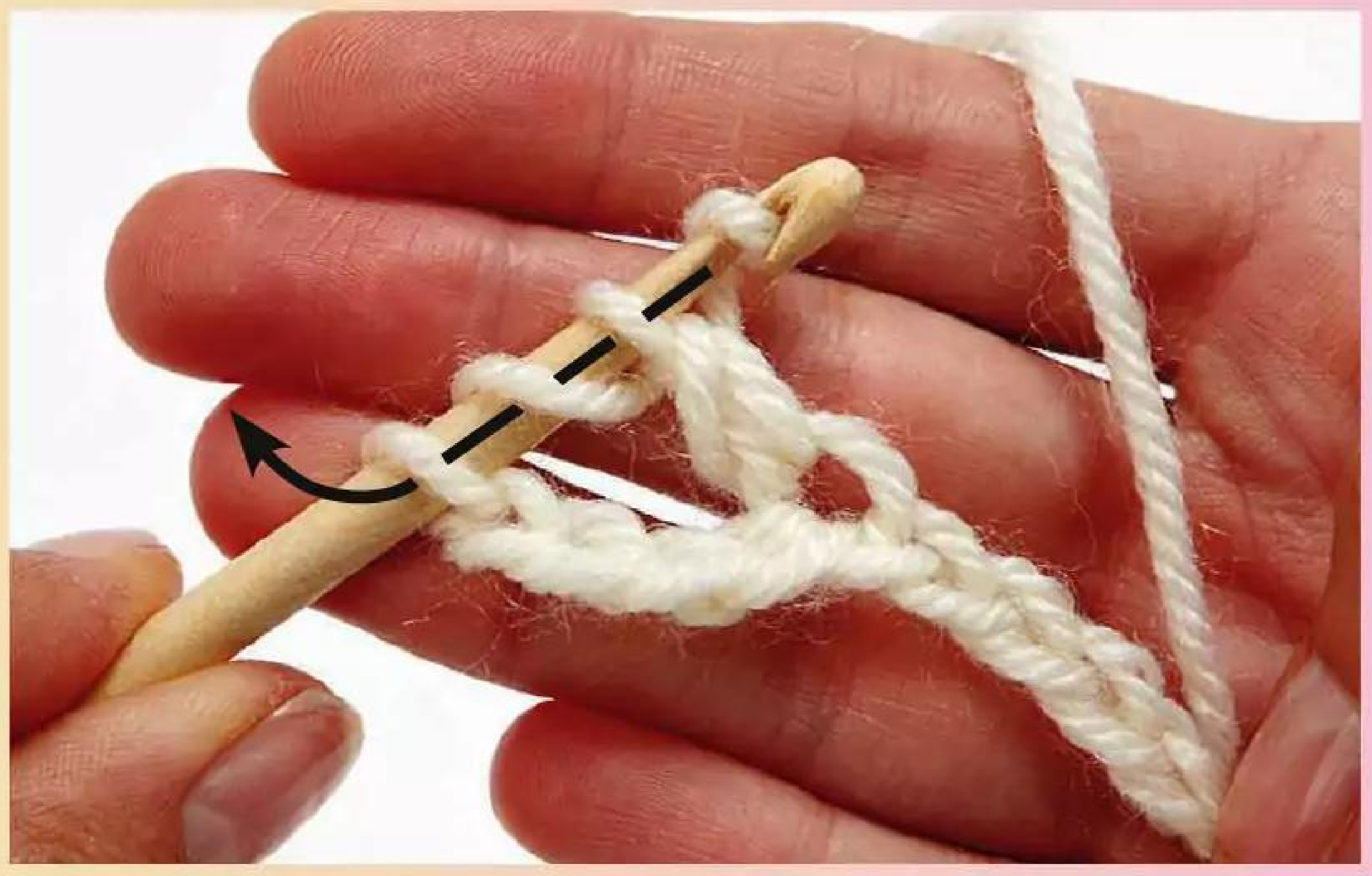
4 Your finished double treble crochet stitch should look like this (above). You can see how it sits neatly next to the 4-chain turning chain.

LEFT-HAND

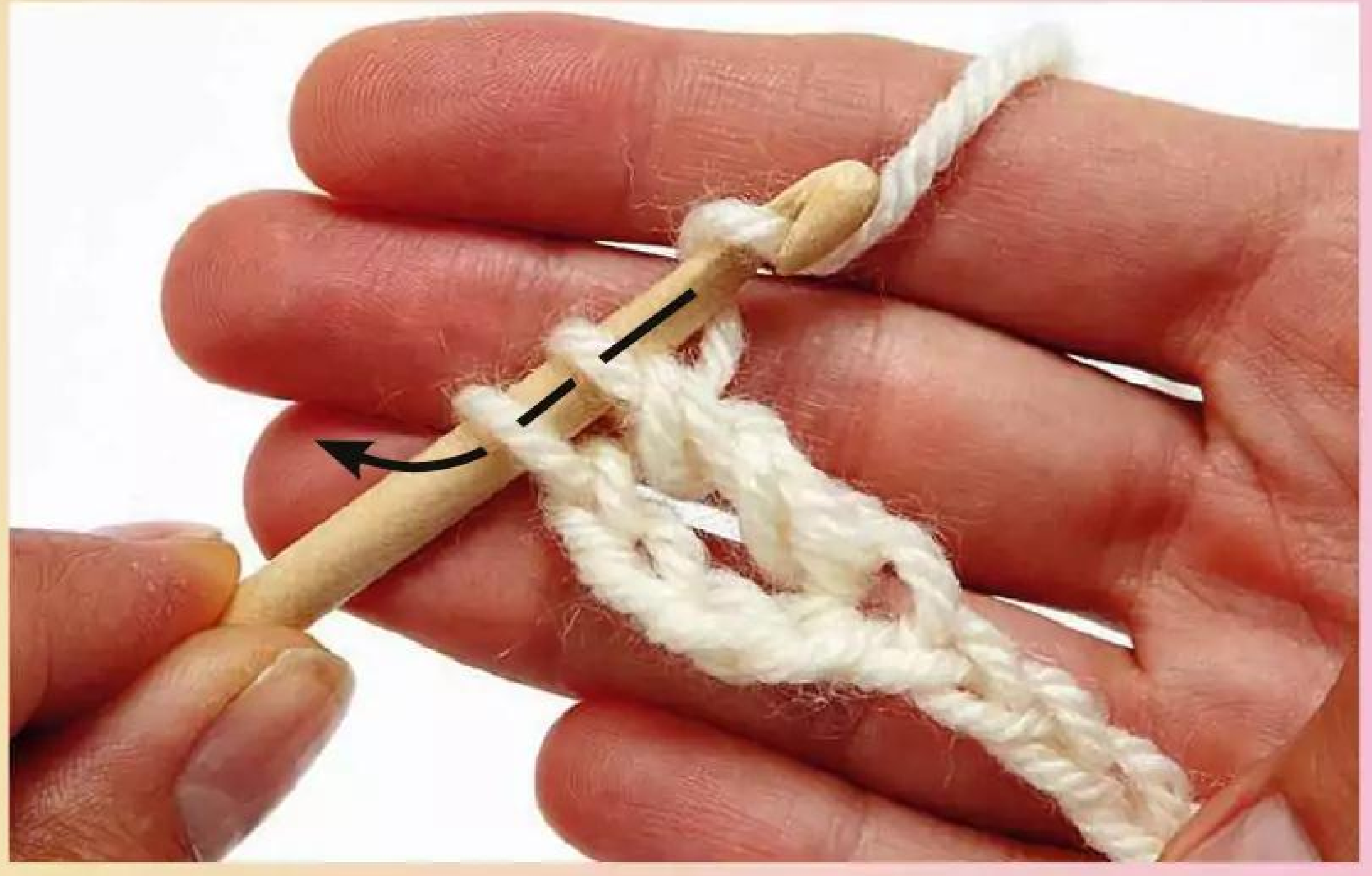
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double treble stitch…



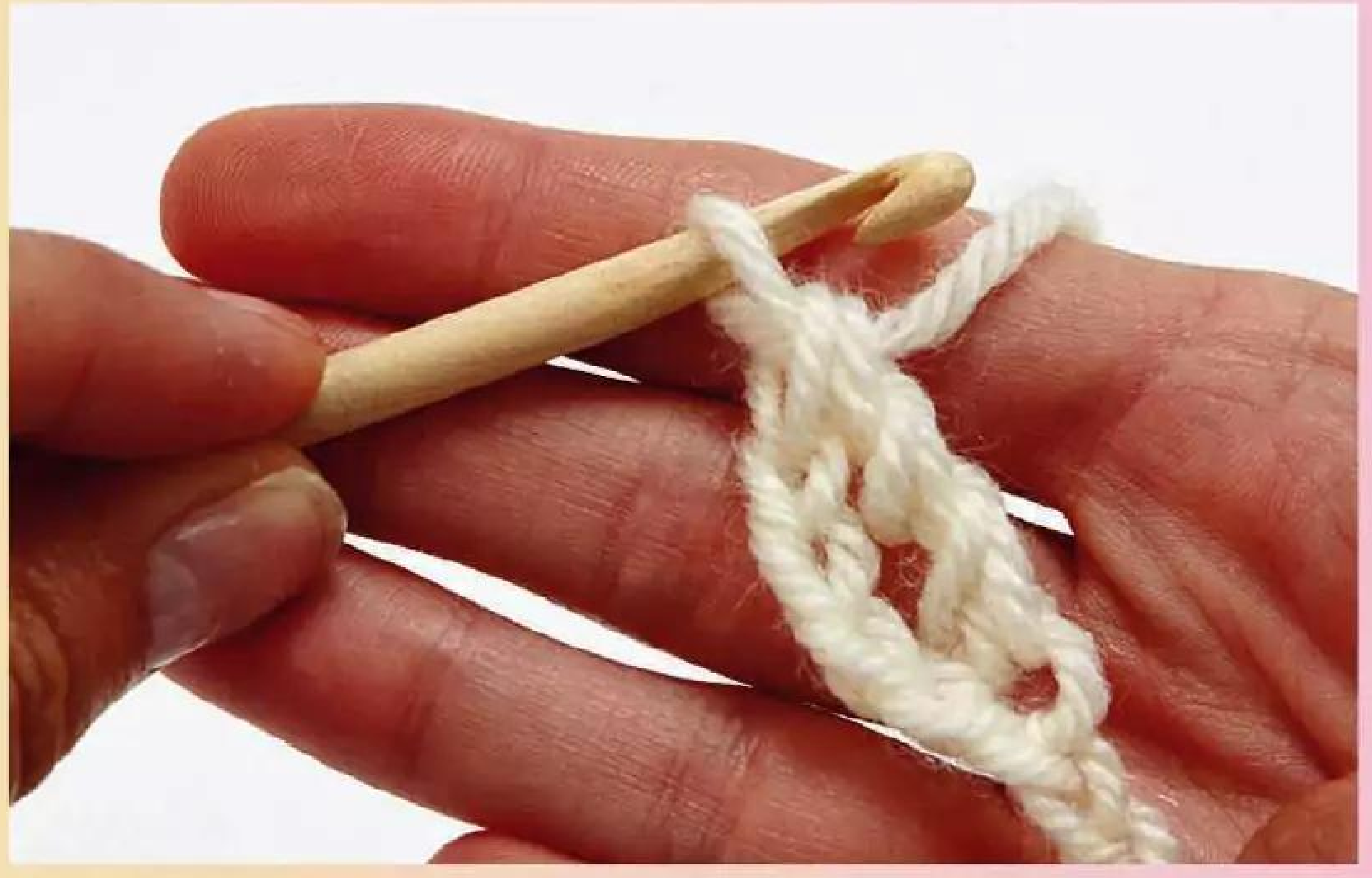
1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook twice and insert hook into 5th chain from hook. Yarn round hook again.



2 Gently pull the yarn through the chain loop (4 loops on hook). Yrh and gently pull the yarn through the first two loops on the hook only (3 loops on hook). Yrh again.



3 Gently pull the yarn through the first two loops on the hook only (2 loops on hook). Yrh and gently pull the yarn through the 2 loops on the hook to finish the stitch.

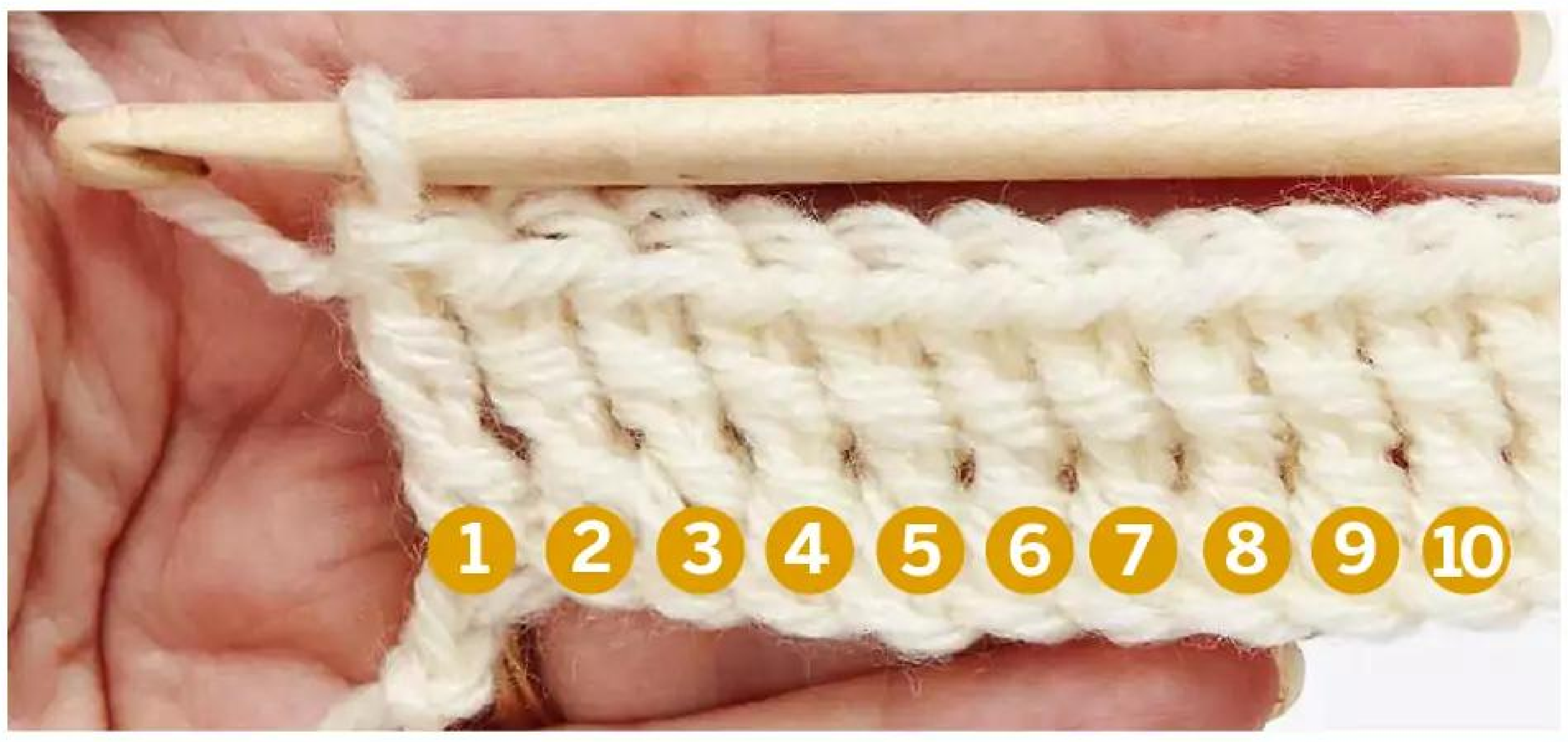


4 Your finished double treble crochet stitch should look like this (above). You can see how it sits neatly next to the 4-chain turning chain.

HOW TO COUNT STITCHES

Double-check that you have the right number of stitches

Being able to count your stitches is vital and helps to ensure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count the stitches at the end of every row, especially after working the first row of stitches into your foundation chain. To count tall stitches such as double trebles, it's usually easiest to count the tall side 'stem' of the stitch (see right), rather than the v-shaped top of the stitch. If you made 21ch (plus 4 t-chs), you should now have 22 double treble stitches.



DOUBLE TREBLE ROWS

Create more rows of double treble to make fabric

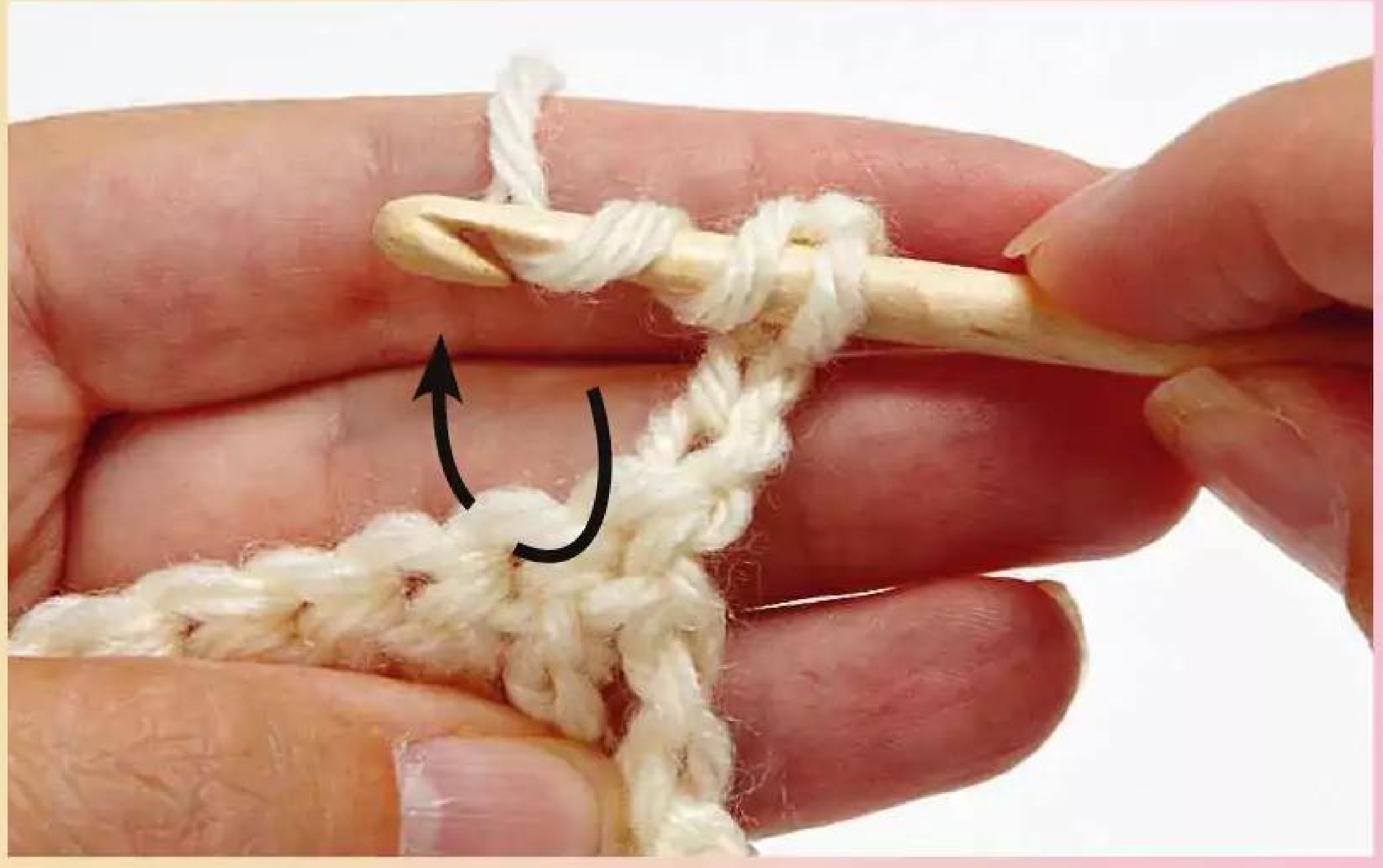
The following rows of double treble are worked in the same way as the foundation row, except you won't be working each stitch into each chain – instead, you'll be working each stitch into the top of the stitch on the previous row (see below).

This is just as easy as working stitches into chains – the only extra technique you'll need to know is turning chains (see below right for more). In double treble rows, you need to count the turning chain (t-ch) as a stitch at the start of the row, then at the end of the row work a double treble stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous row. Have a practice and you'll soon get the hang of it. The more rows you work, the larger your piece of double treble fabric.

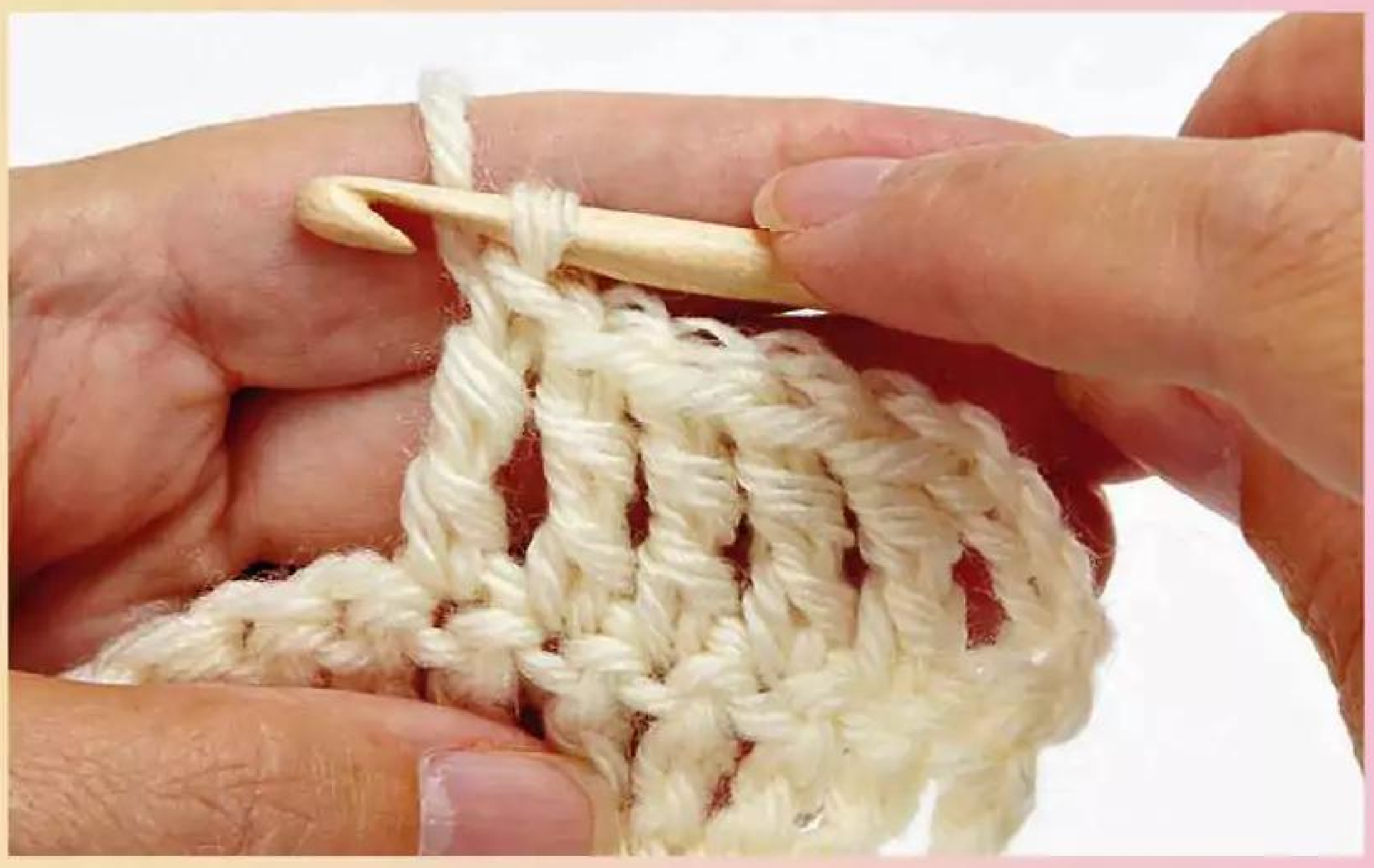
At the end of each row, count your stitches (this is the 'stitch count') to check you haven't made too many or missed any. It will only take a few minutes and could save you hours if you spot a mistake, rather than having to undo your work later!

RIGHT-HAND

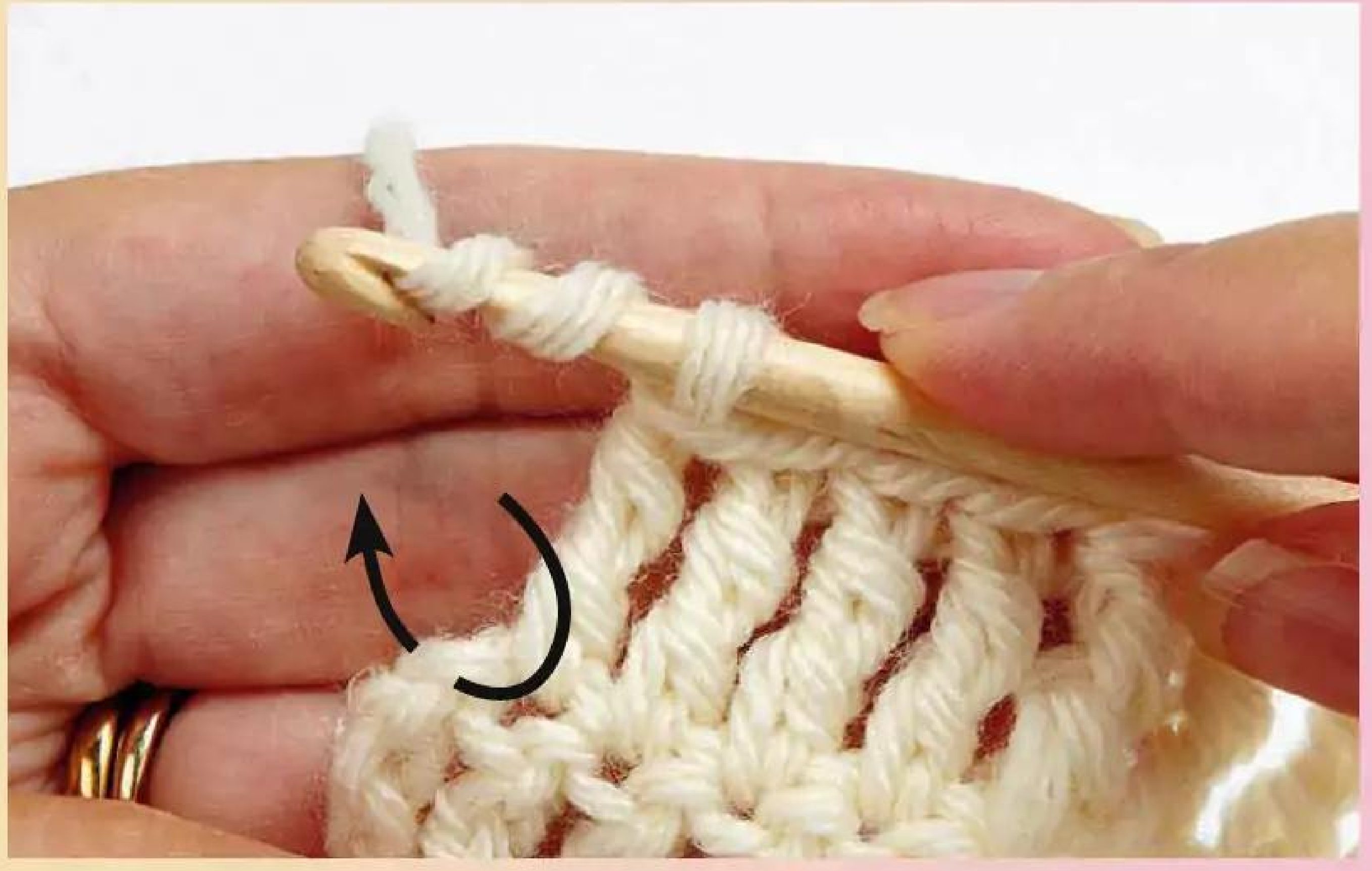
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of double treble...



1 Work four chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh twice and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Finish the double treble stitch as before: yrh, pull yarn through, (yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops) 3 times. Work a dtr into the top of each stitch of the previous row.

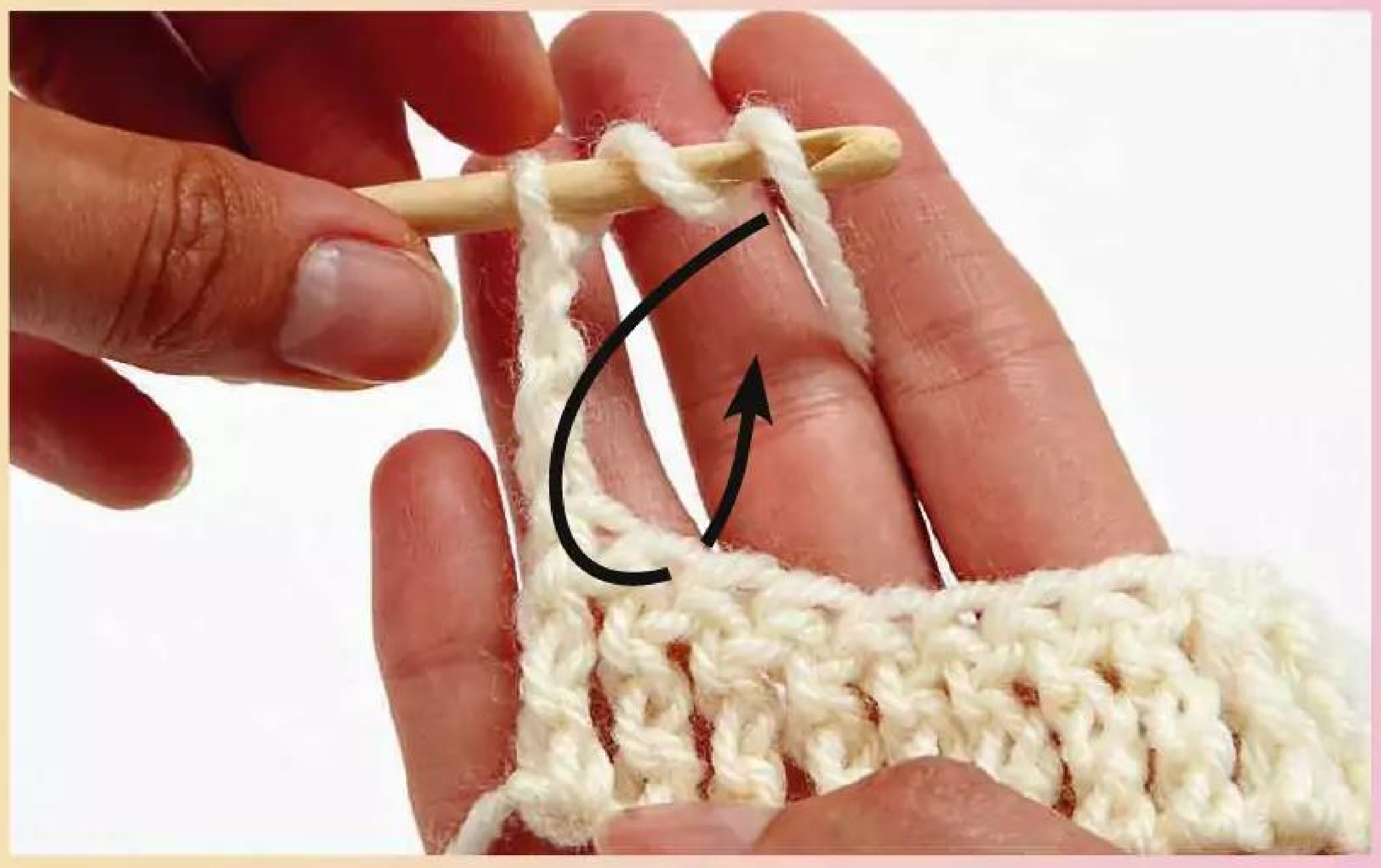


3 To finish the row of double treble stitches, work the final dtr stitch into the top chain of the turning chain on the previous row.

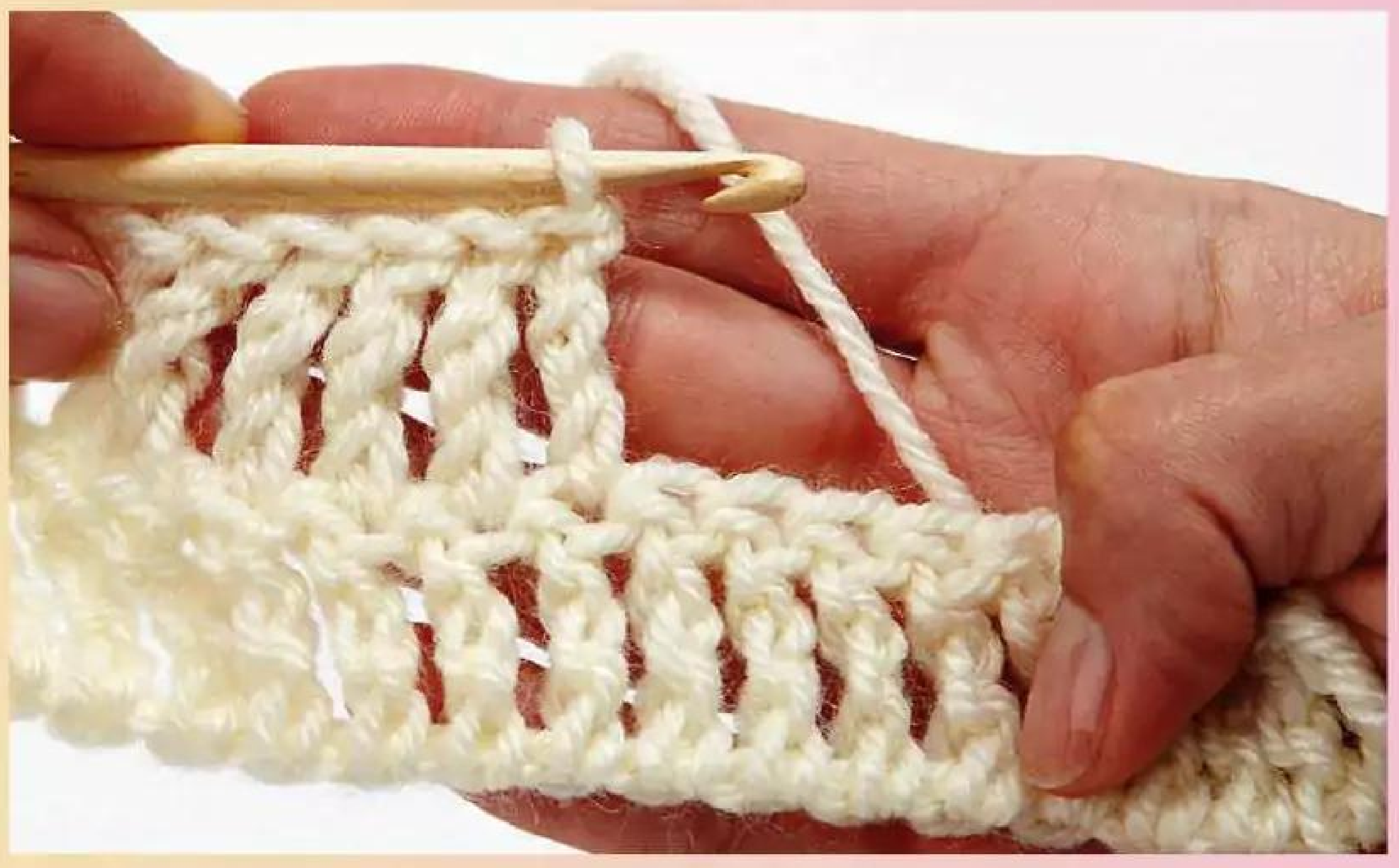
4 Your second row of double trebles will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

LEFT-HAND

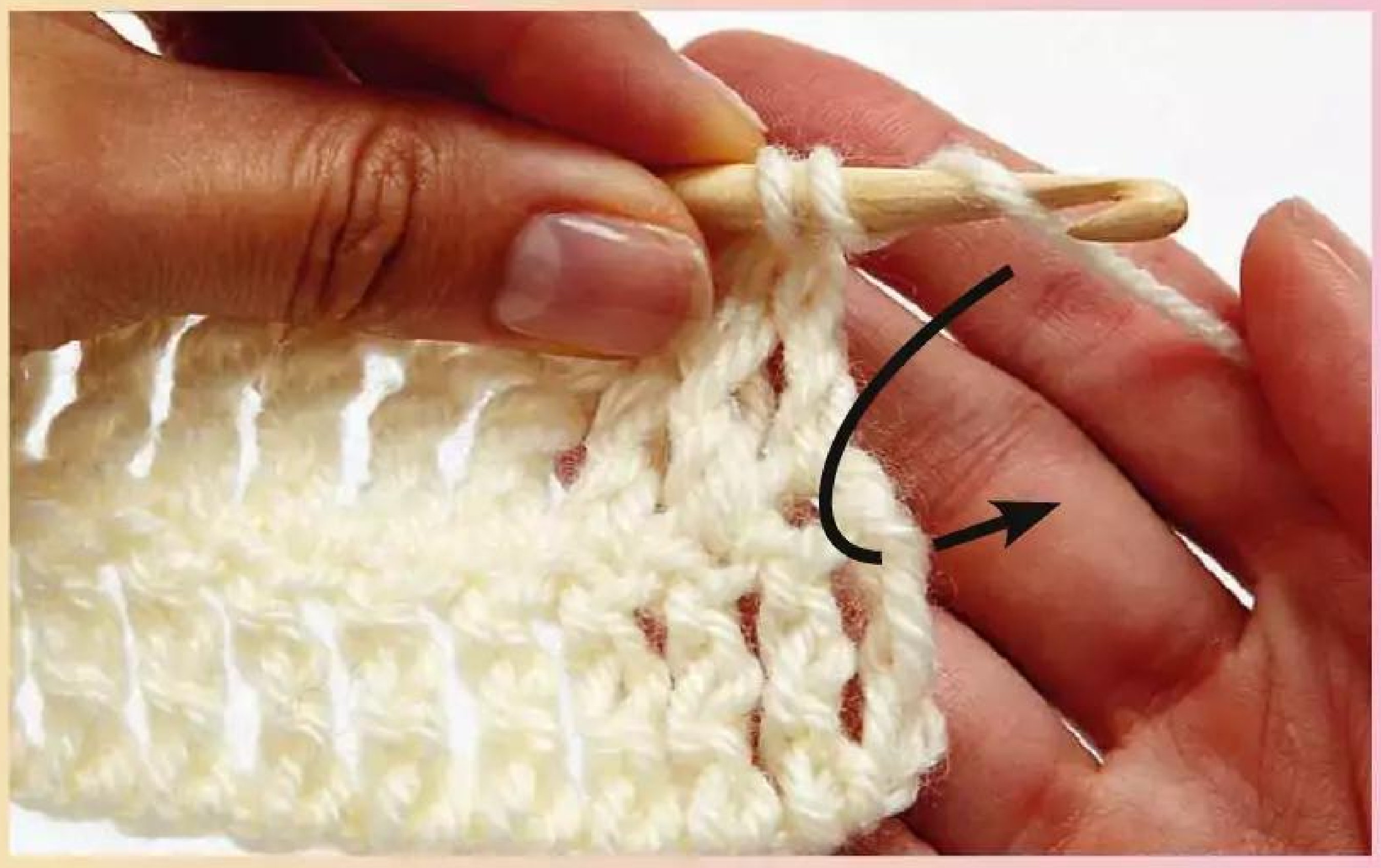
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of double treble...



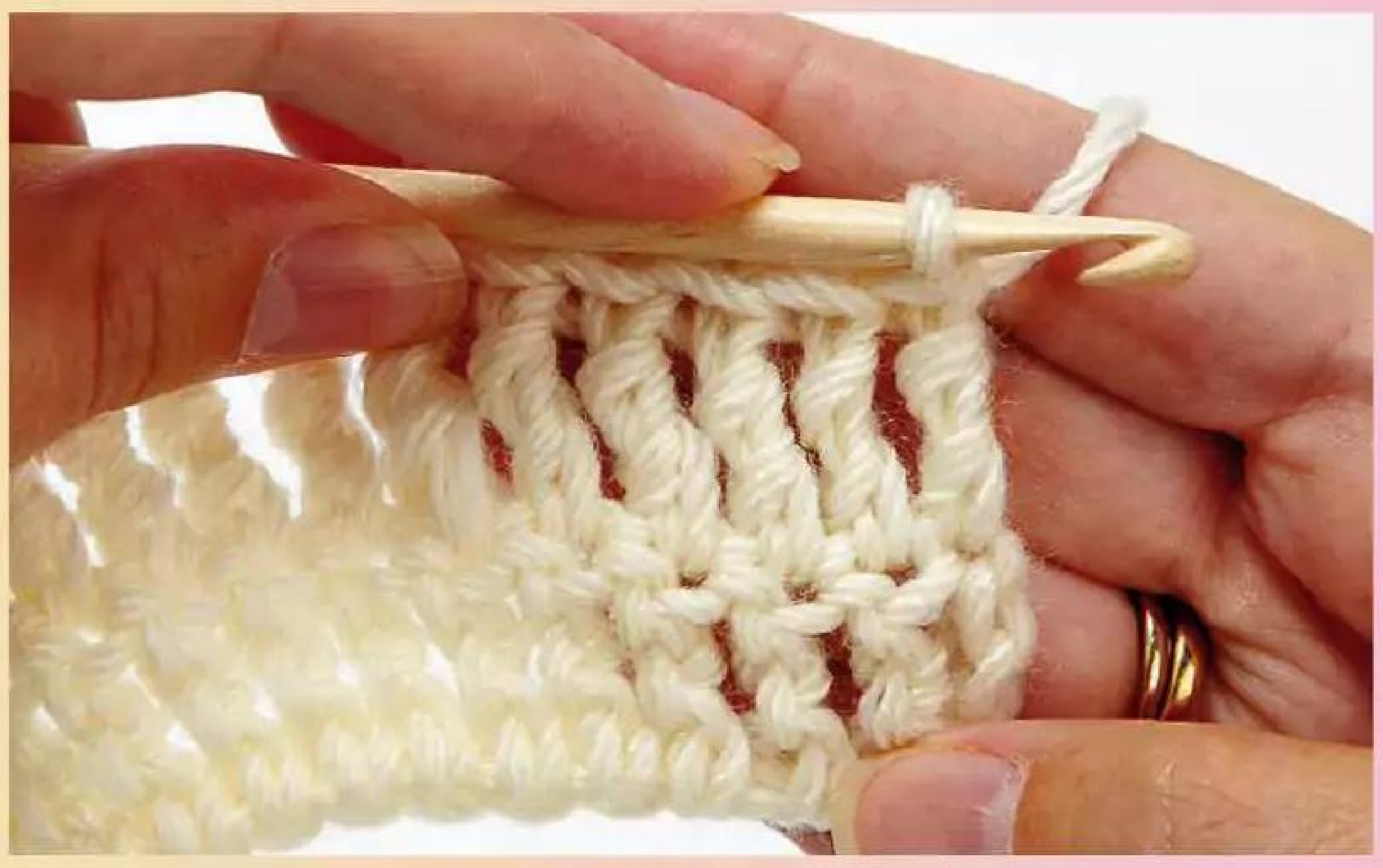
1 Work four chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh twice and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Finish the double treble stitch as before: yrh, pull yarn through, (yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops) 3 times. Work a dtr into the top of each stitch of the previous row.



3 To finish the row of double treble stitches, work the final dtr stitch into the top chain of the turning chain on the previous row.



4 Your second row of double trebles will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

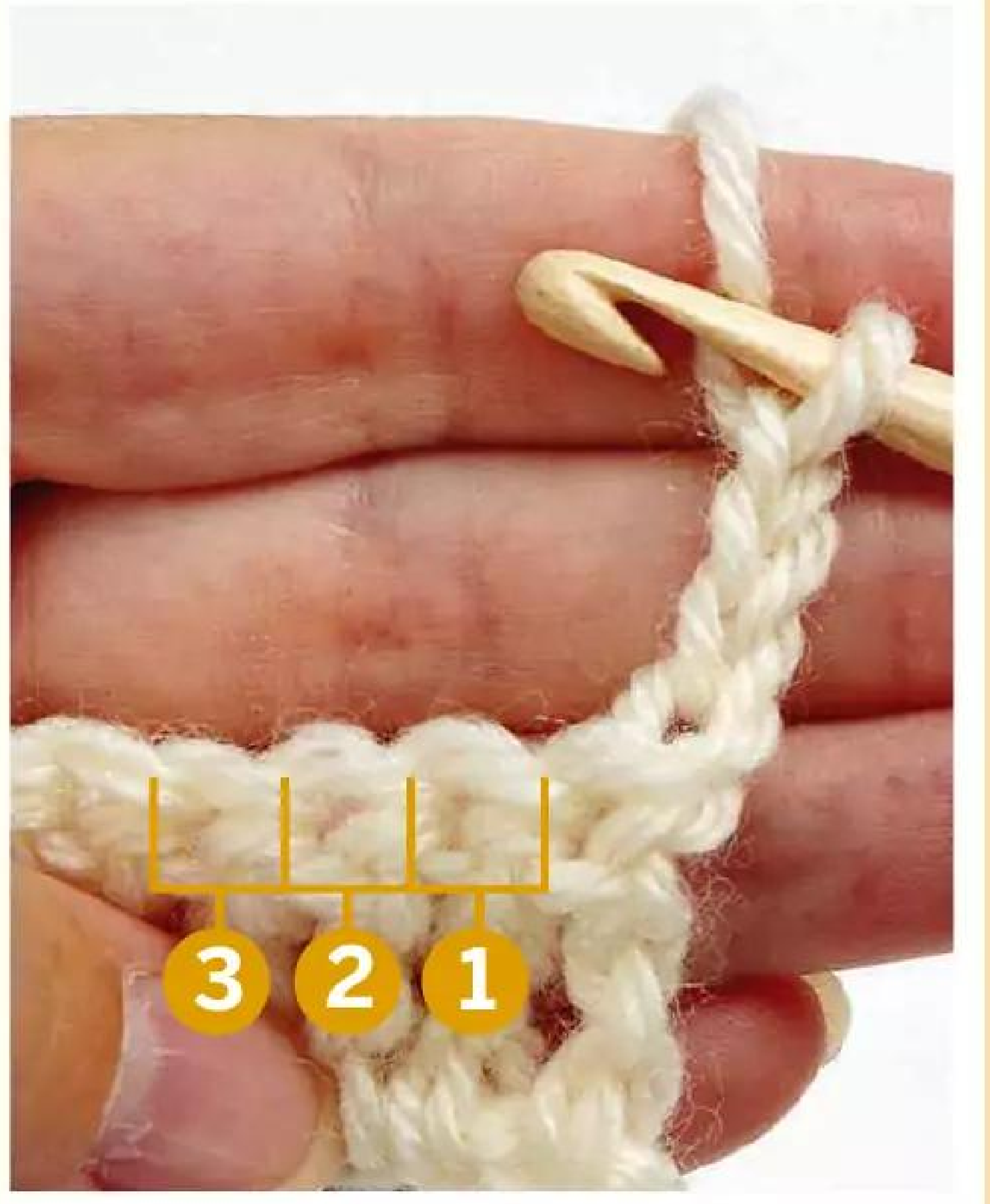
TURNING CHAINS

Use these to bring the hook up to the height of the next row

After each row of double treble, you need to turn your fabric and work the turning chain (4 chains for dtr). The picture (right) shows this done and ready to continue.

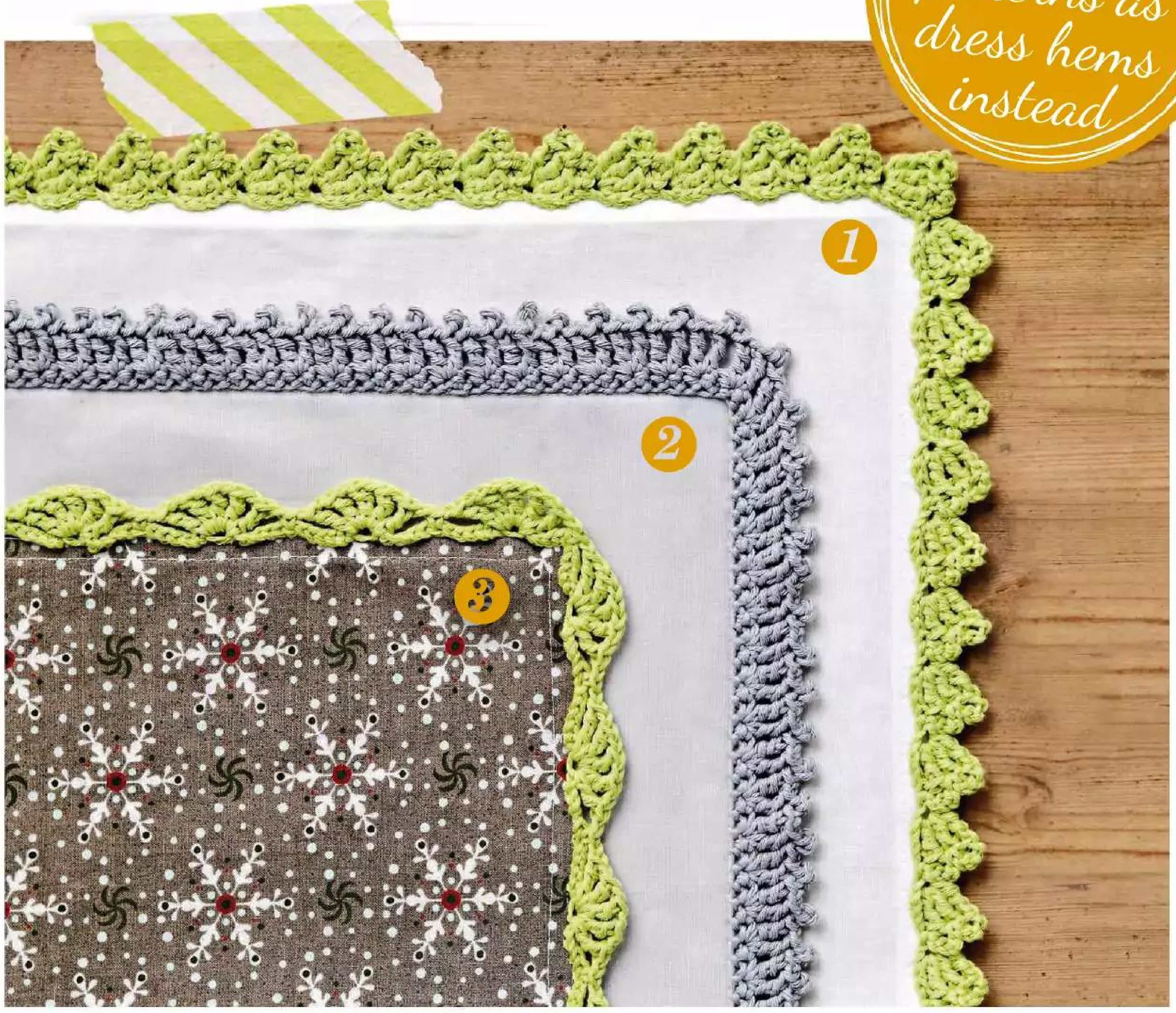
In crochet, you need to make a t-ch at the start of each row to bring the hook up to the working height for the next row. You usually make the t-ch at the start of the new row, but it was traditionally worked at the end of the row. Different stitches need a different length of t-ch (see page 46 for more detail on turning chains).

In double treble fabric, you usually count the t-ch as the first stitch of the new row (unless the pattern states otherwise). The numbers on the image (right) show where to work your first double treble stitch after the t-ch – into the top of the second stitch on the row below, skipping the stitch at the base of the t-ch.



DOUBLE TREBLE EDGINGS

Dress your dining table in chic, handmade style with these napkin borders. By **Cara Medus**



Try these patterns as dress hems instead

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Yarn and Colors Must-Have 4ply (100% cotton, 50g/125m) 2 balls of each: Lettuce (081), Silver (094)

HOOK

- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

NOTIONS

- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Tape measure
- Napkins
- Sewing needle and matching sewing thread

SIZING & TENSION

Length is adjustable to fit your napkin. Width measurements:
Double Treble Picot: 3cm (1¼in)
Double Treble Shell: 2cm (¾in)
Double Treble Points: 2.5cm (1in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 18

DOUBLE TREBLE POINTS (1)

Work this edging back and forth in short rows to make a strip that can be worked to any length to fit the napkin.

Row 1 (RS) Using Soft Lime, ch5, 3dtr in first ch, turn.
Row 2 (WS) Ch4, skip first dtr and ss in next dtr, ch4, ss in top of beg ch-5, turn.
Repeat these two rows until the edging fits the napkin, making sure that you have the same number of repeats on each side.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

Wet block to help the edging lie flat. You will find our wet block crochet guide at www.gathered.how. Leave to dry. Sew to the napkin.

DOUBLE TREBLE PICOT (2)

Using Silver, work a foundation chain longer than you need. As a guide, work a chain at least the length of the napkin edges plus the length of one of the sides.
As you work Row 1 of the edging, pin it against the napkin edge, making sure you fit the same number of pattern repeats to each side. When you're sure the edging is the right length, undo the slipknot and any surplus foundation chain. Secure the yarn.

In this pattern, work the ch-3 picot technique as follows: ch3, ss in the first of those 3 ch.

Row 1 (WS) Dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch until the length fits the napkin, turn. You will need an even number of dc sts.
Row 2 (RS) Ch5 (counts as dtr, ch1), dtr in st at the base of the 5-ch, ch-3 picot, skip 1 st, *(dtr, ch1, dtr) in next st, ch-3 picot, skip 1 st; repeat from * to end.
Fasten off leaving a long tail.

Wet block as above, laying it out in a square just as it will be on the napkin, so you can shape the corners. Sew in place around the napkin, using the finishing tail to join the end to the 4th ch of the beg ch-5. Weave in ends.

DOUBLE TREBLE SHELL (3)

Using Soft Lime, work a foundation chain in the same way as above.

Row 1 (RS) Dtr in 6th ch from the hook (missed ch count as dtr, ch1). (Dtr in the same st as the last dtr, ch1) 4 times, skip 5 ch, dc in next ch, ch1, skip 5 ch, *(Dtr, ch1) in next st 5 times, skip 5 ch, dc in next ch, ch1, skip 5 ch; repeat from * until the edging fits around the napkin.
Fasten off leaving a long tail, block (see page 127). Sew the edging in place on the napkin, using the finishing tail to join the end to the 4th ch of the beg ch-5. Weave in ends.

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TRIPLE TREBLE FABRIC

This very long stitch creates a very lacy fabric

The longest crochet stitch that's commonly used is the triple treble stitch, which is very long and lacy. It's abbreviated as ttr, and called double treble in the US.

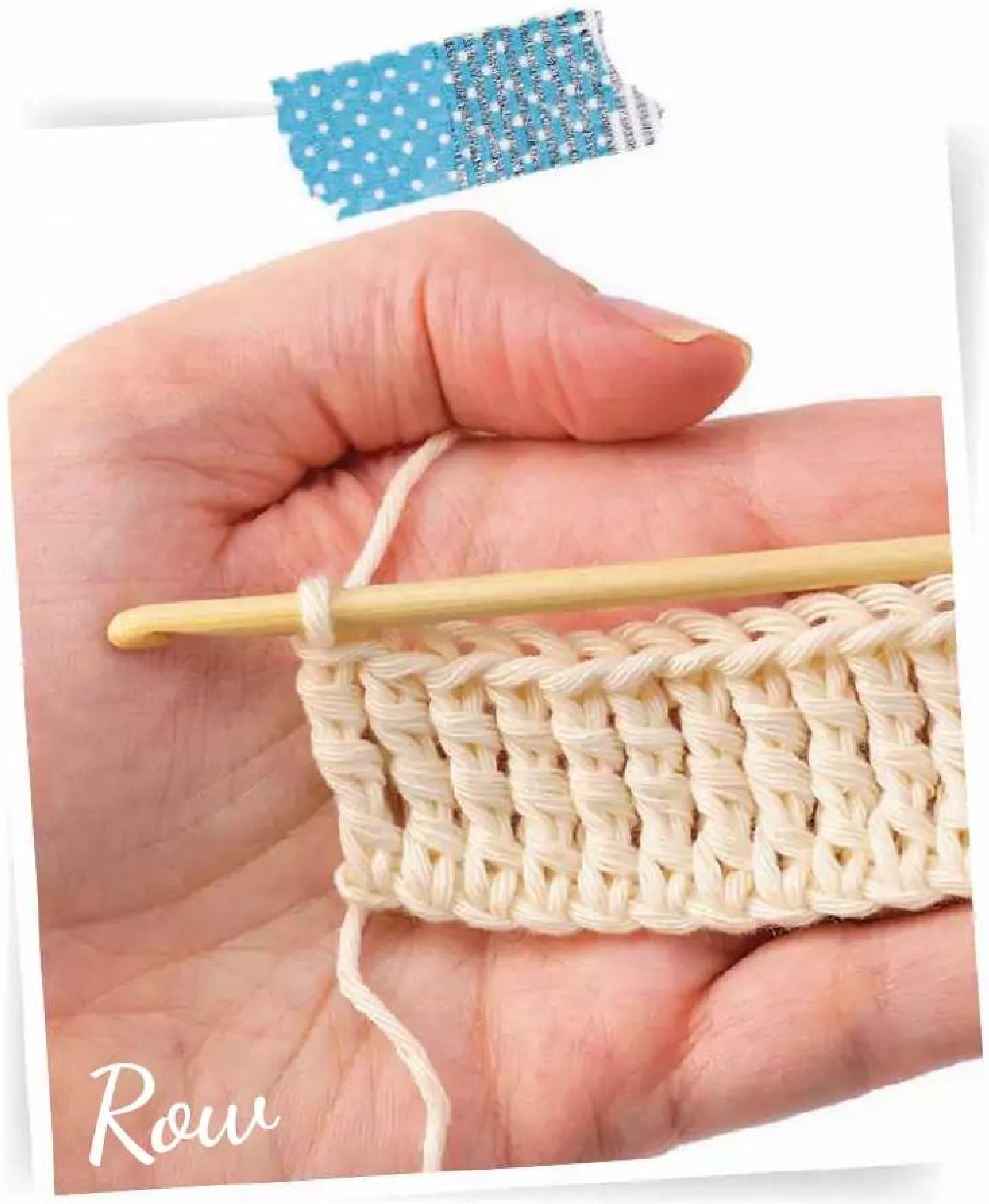
The triple treble stitch is worked in a similar way to a double treble stitch, but with more yrh's so it's much longer. Triple trebles create a very lacy fabric with an open texture, used for all sorts of projects, but especially for making motifs.

Crocheters usually describe the pattern effect on the crochet fabric as a 'stitch pattern'. If you work rows of triple treble stitches on every row, back and forth, you'll create a simple triple treble stitch pattern (see below right).

Below left is an example of triple treble stitches worked in one row. Repeat these rows to create triple treble fabric, shown below right. In rows, triple treble fabric looks the same on the front and the back, which can be useful. In rounds, triple treble fabric gives a slightly different effect on each side. Whichever method you're using to work the fabric, a pattern will always tell you which is the right and wrong side of your fabric.

Work through our guide to learn the triple treble stitch and then try our heart square on page 112. Once you can work triple trebles in rows, it's easy to work it in rounds and to work triple treble decreases, using the same techniques we've already covered for working treble stitches.

You'll notice a pattern between trebles, double trebles and triple trebles, with each one involving an extra yrh before inserting the hook. You can use the same principles to work ever longer stitches.

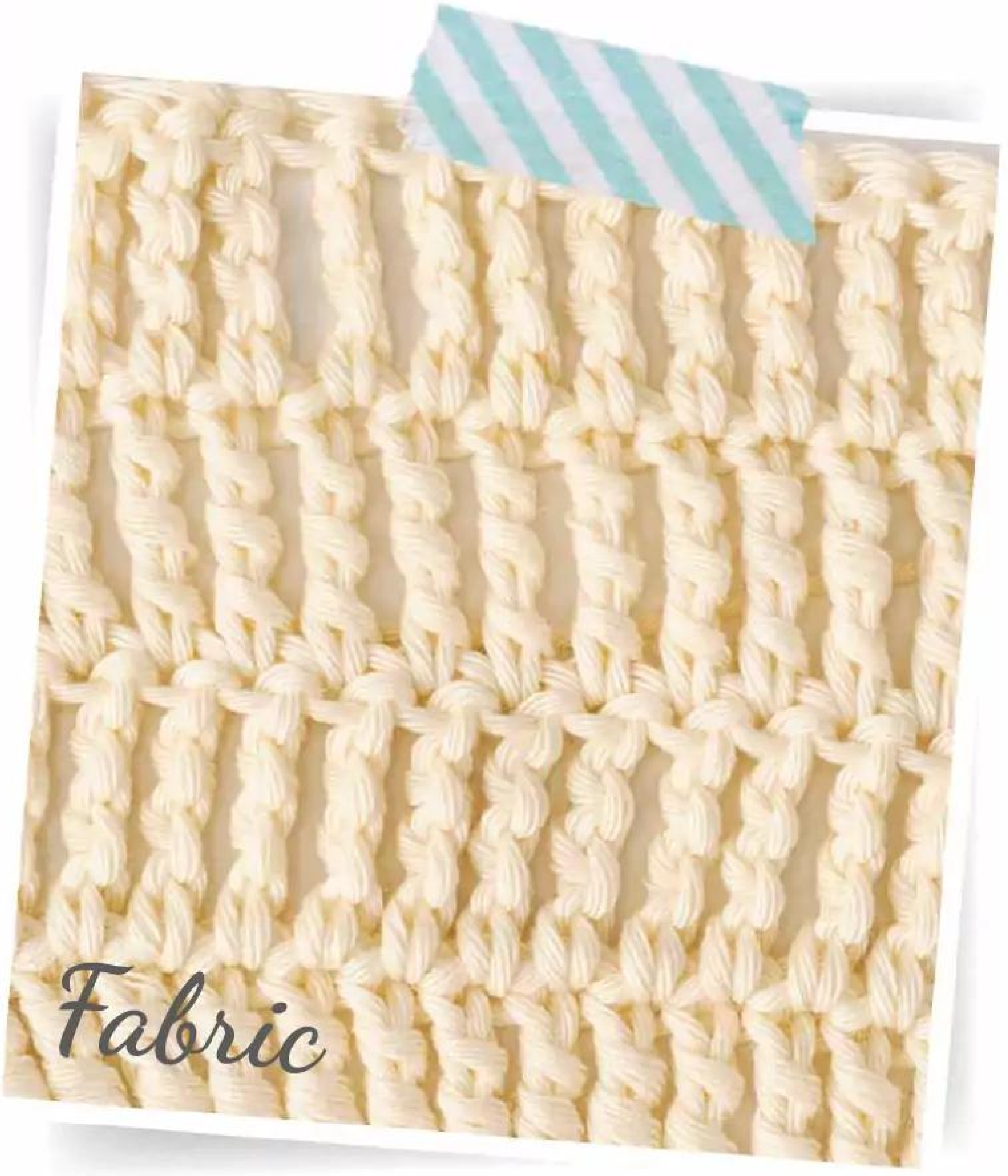


❶ VERY TALL ROWS

Each triple treble stitch is worked into each chain stitch, creating a long, lacy pattern on the side of the stitch and a neat 'v' shape at the top of the stitch.

❷ OPEN FABRIC

Triple treble fabric is very lacy and open, with a loose drape. The very long stitches create a delicate lacy texture.



HIP TO BE SQUARE

For every stitch you learn and practise, crochet up a square or two, using different colours if you like. Then sew them all together to make a fab throw that will become a great reference guide as well. Try using DK yarn, a 4mm hook and about 22 stitches to make a 10cm (4in) square, or 33 stitches to make a larger 15cm (6in) square. Make a foundation chain of 21 or 32 chains, then the t-ch of 5ch (counts as a stitch). Then work a triple treble into each of the 21 or 32 chains to the end. Turn, make the t-ch and triple treble into the 2nd stitch and each stitch to the end of the row. Repeat until you have a square, then fasten off.

TRIPLE TREBLE FABRIC IDEAS

The height of the triple treble stitch makes it handy for lots of different projects, from lacy accessories to flowery motifs. It's a good stitch to combine with other stitches of different heights, to form different shapes like this heart (see p112).

TRIPLE TREBLE INTO CHAINS

How to crochet triple treble stitches into your chain length

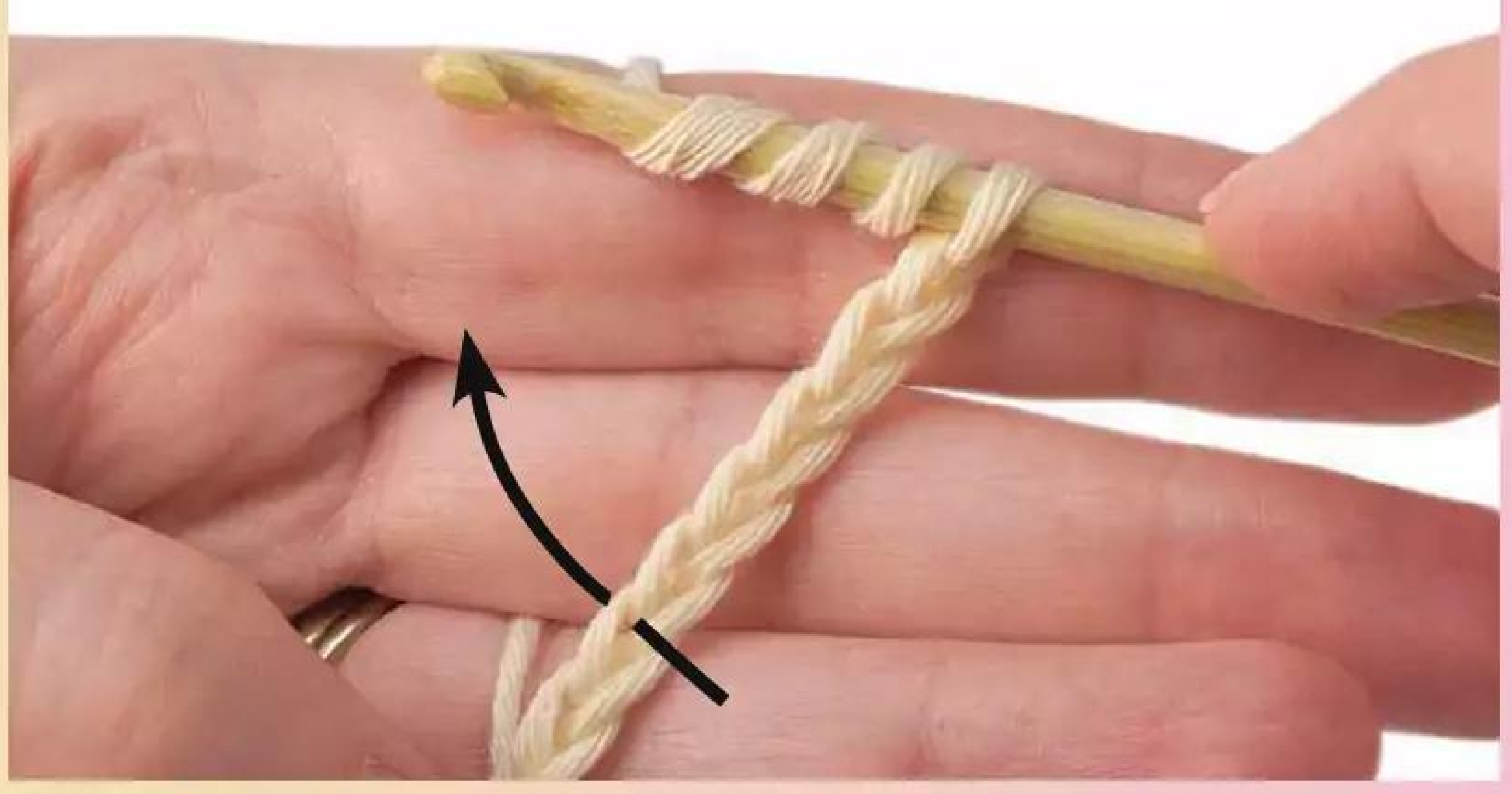
Start off by making a chain length – try 26 chains. Then you can use one of the methods below to start working your triple treble stitches into the foundation chain. One method might suit you better, so try both.

Make sure you insert the hook under two loops of the chain stitch (the top front loop and the loop at the back of the chain). Some patterns ask you to insert the hook under just the top front loop of the chain, and you can also use this method if your chain is a bit tight. If it's very tight, undo the chain length and rework it using a larger hook. Then switch back to the smaller hook.

Method 2 gives a more solid finish to your fabric and maintains the plaited look of the front of the chain, which looks neater.

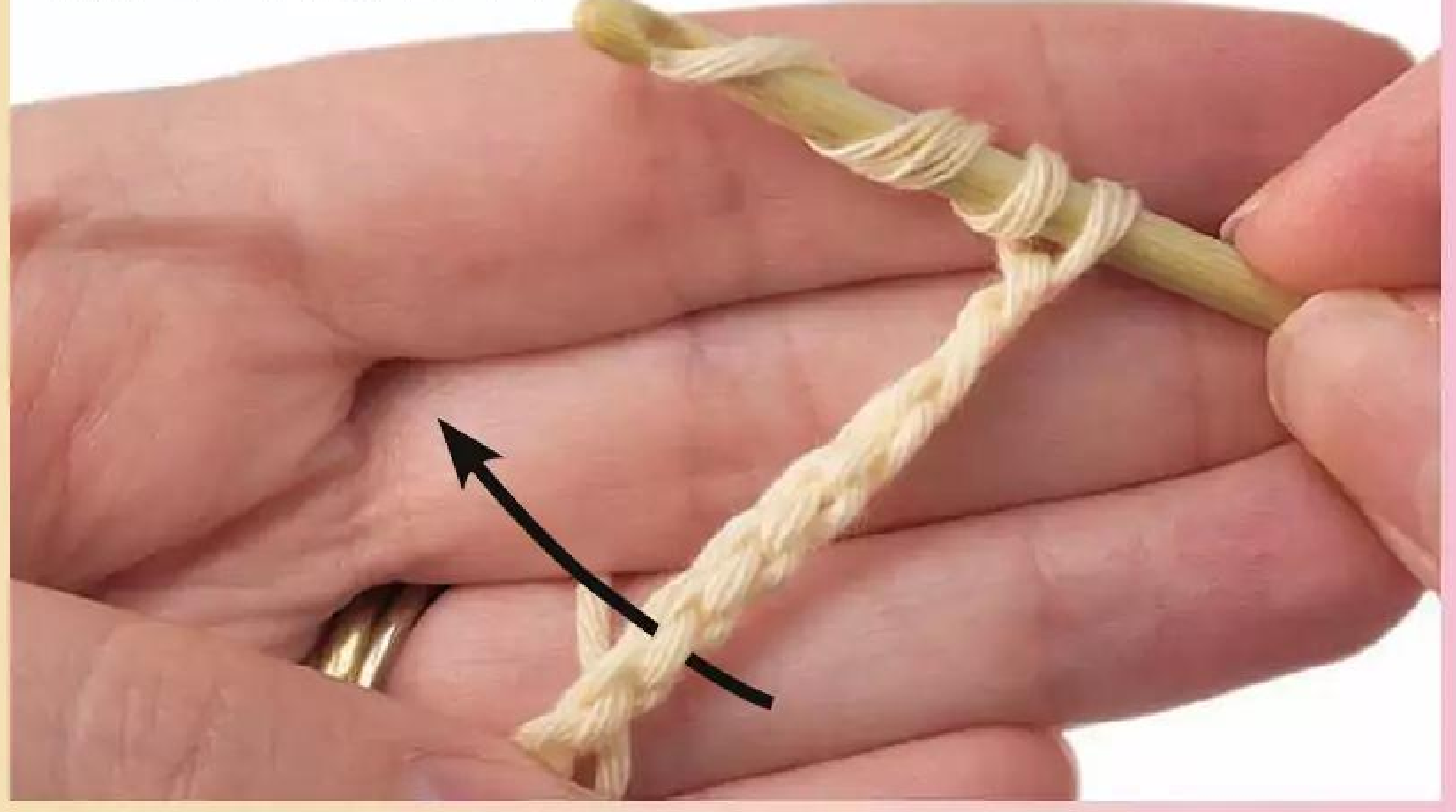
RIGHT-HAND

METHOD 1



When working a triple treble stitch, work yrh three times, then insert the hook into the 6th chain from the hook, as shown above. Then continue your first triple treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

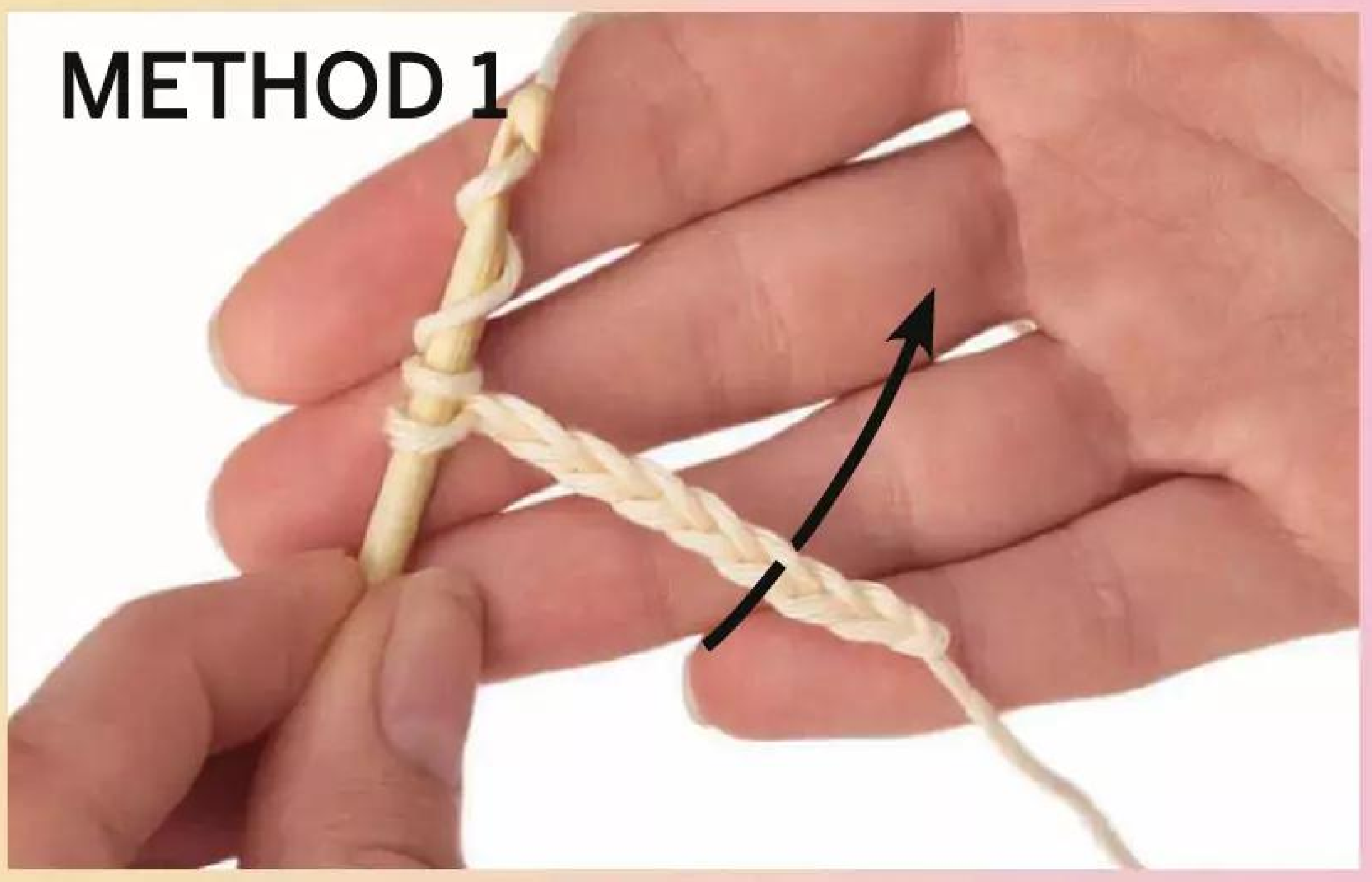
METHOD 2



Wrap the yarn round the hook three times for a triple treble stitch. Then insert your hook into the 6th bump from the hook, on the back of the chain. Then continue your first triple treble, as instructed overleaf.

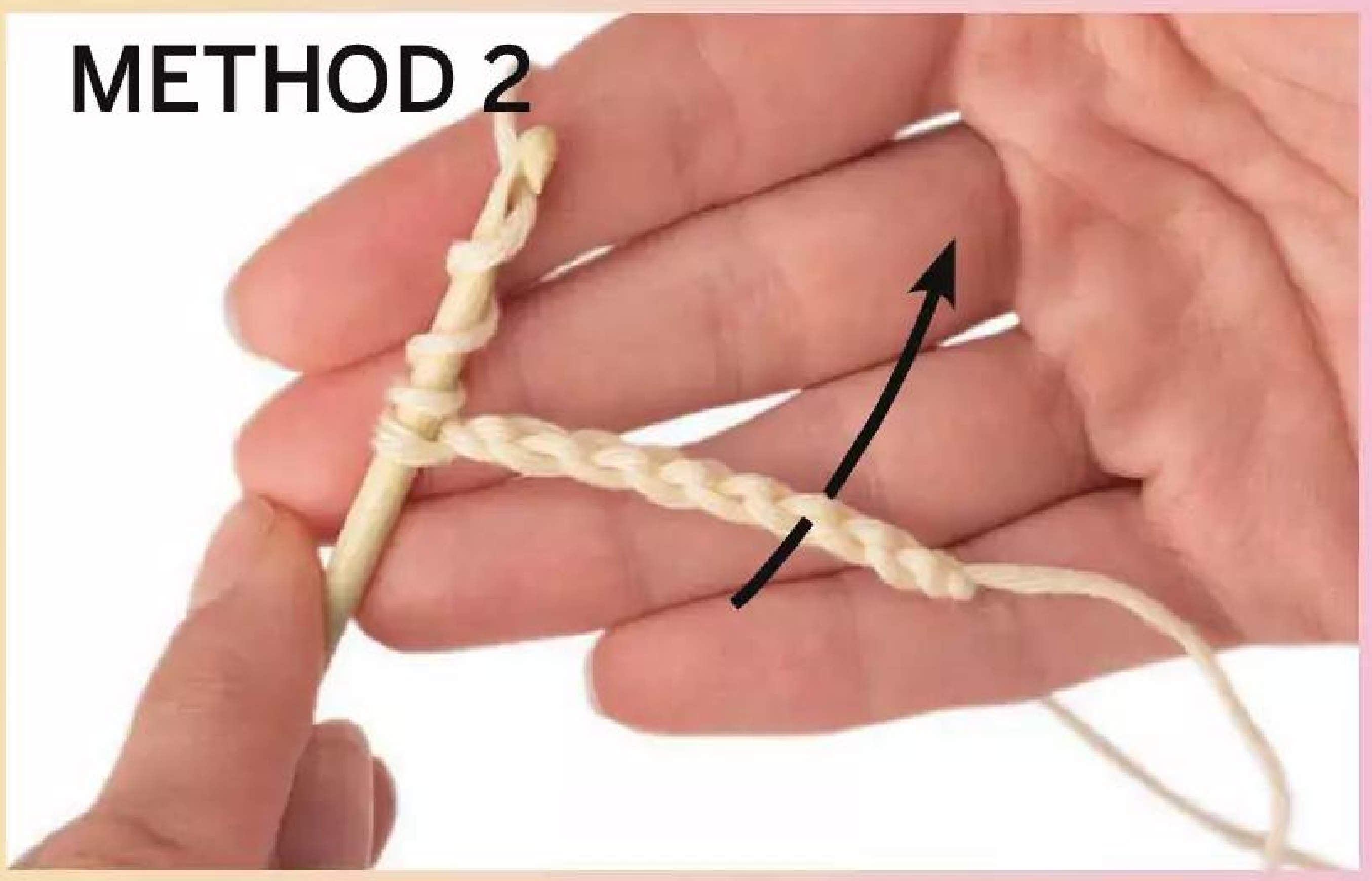
LEFT-HAND

METHOD 1



When working a triple treble stitch, work yrh three times, then insert the hook into the 6th chain from the hook, as shown above. Then continue your first triple treble crochet stitch, as instructed overleaf.

METHOD 2



Wrap the yarn round the hook three times for a triple treble stitch. Then insert your hook into the 6th bump from the hook, on the back of the chain. Then continue your first triple treble, as instructed overleaf.

TRIPLE TREBLE STITCH

How to create lacy triple treble crochet stitches

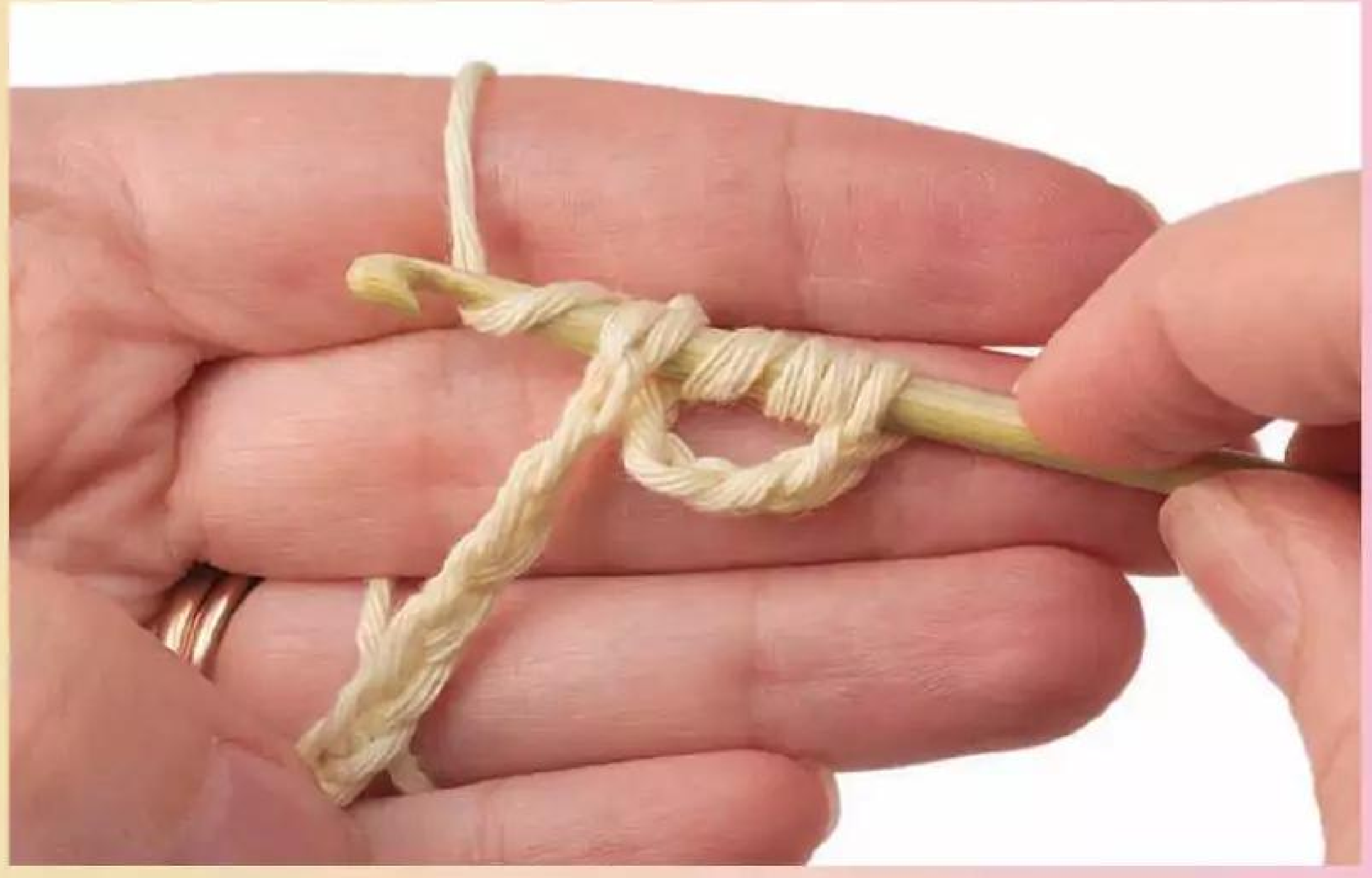
Once you have a foundation chain of 26 chains and you've inserted the hook (with yarn wrapped round three times) into the 6th chain from the hook, you can make your first triple treble stitch (see below). It's just as easy as making treble stitches, with a few more twists of yarn involved!

Work a triple treble stitch into each chain, holding the stitches firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go. Don't worry if it looks uneven – keep going to the end of the chain (don't work into the slipknot).

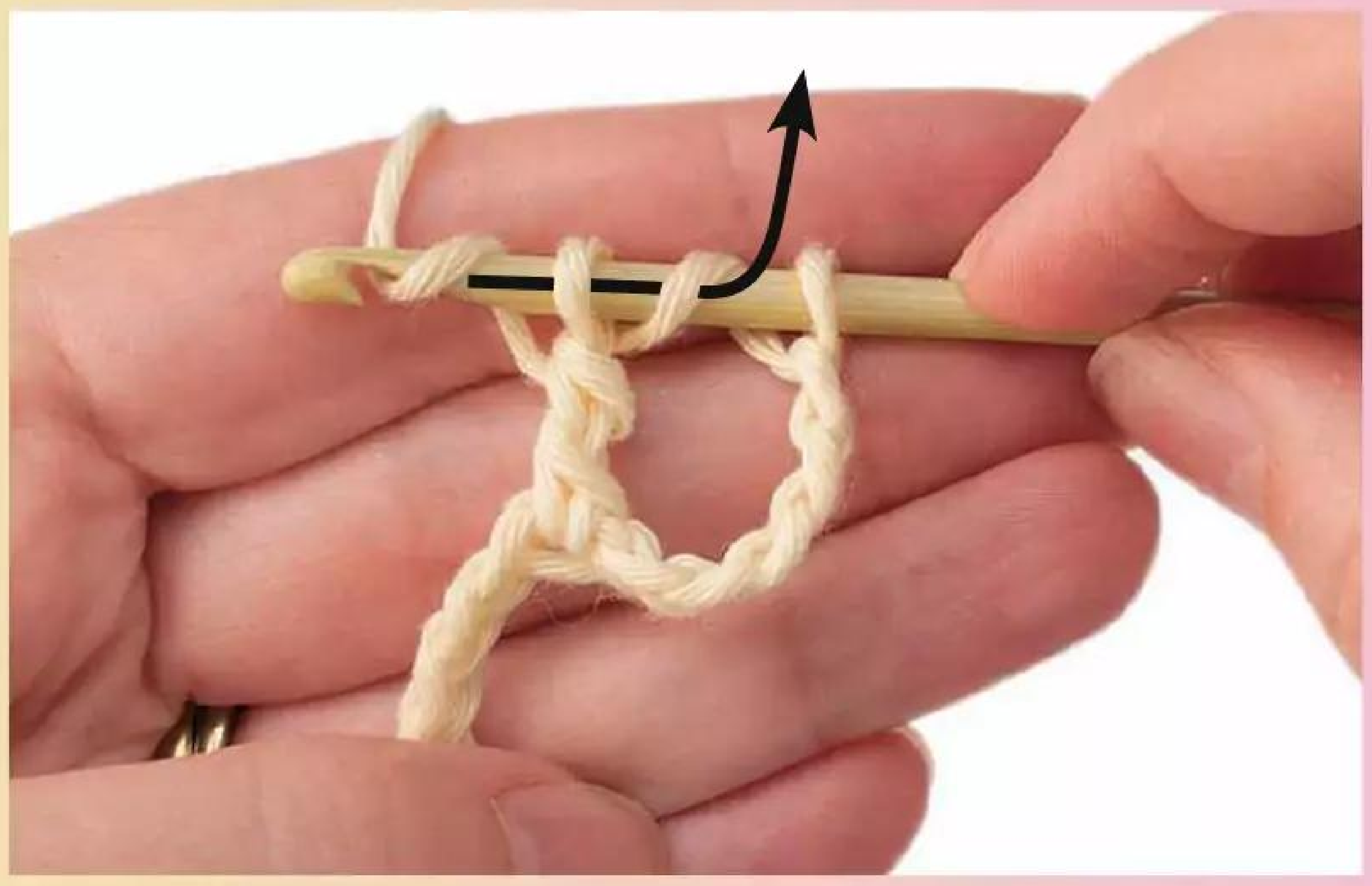
Once you've completed the first row of triple trebles (often called the foundation row), follow our guide (below right) to count your stitches – you should have 22 stitches. The first five chains that you skipped at the start form the turning chain, which counts as one stitch in triple treble crochet (we've explained this in more detail overleaf), so include this in your stitch count. As always, you can do a swatch for practice.

RIGHT-HAND

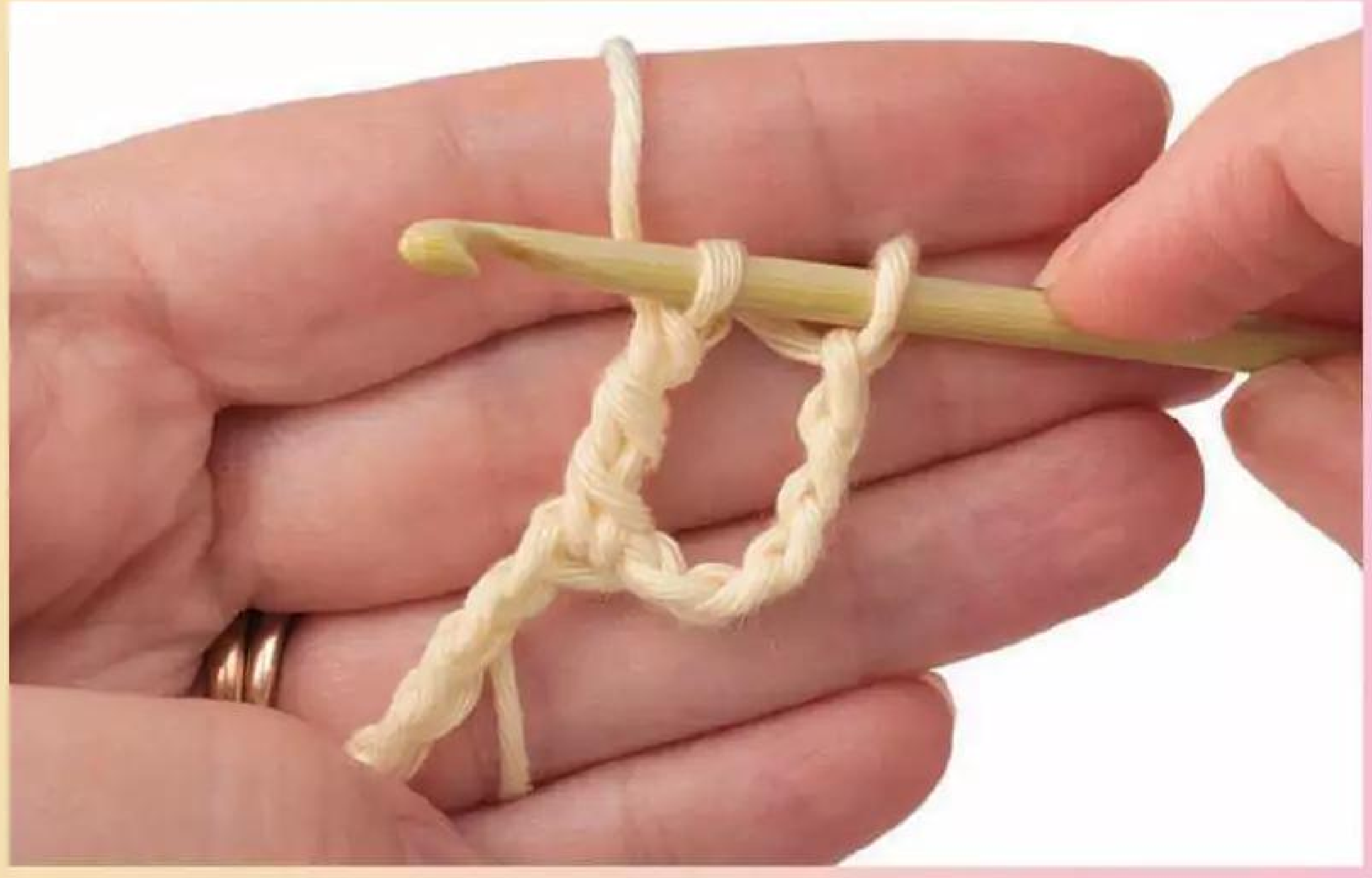
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect triple treble stitch...



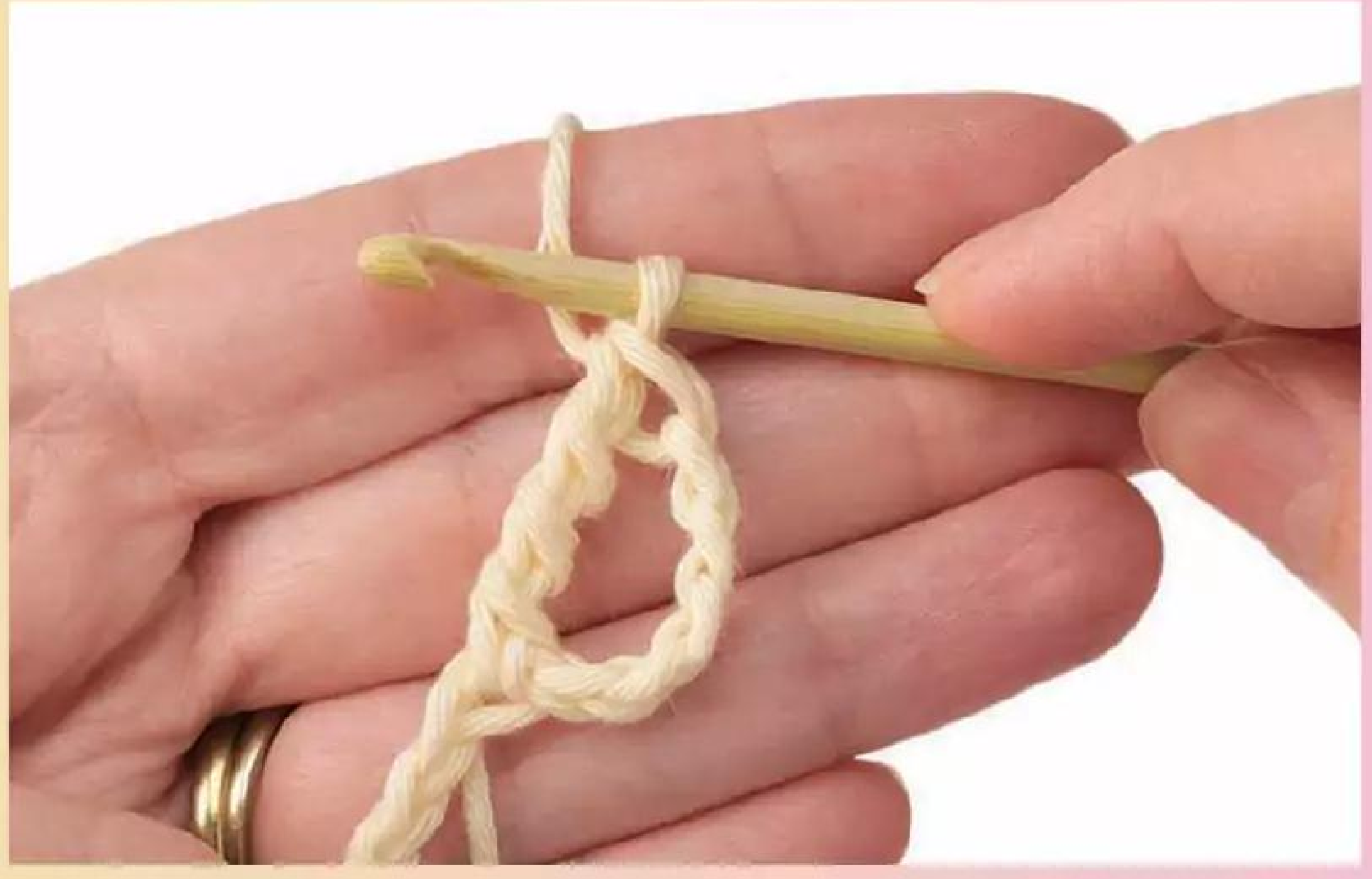
1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook three times and insert hook into 6th chain from hook. Yarn round hook.



2 Gently pull the yarn through the chain loop (5 loops on hook). *Yrh and pull the yarn through the first two loops on the hook (4 loops on hook). Repeat from * (3 loops on hook). Yrh again.



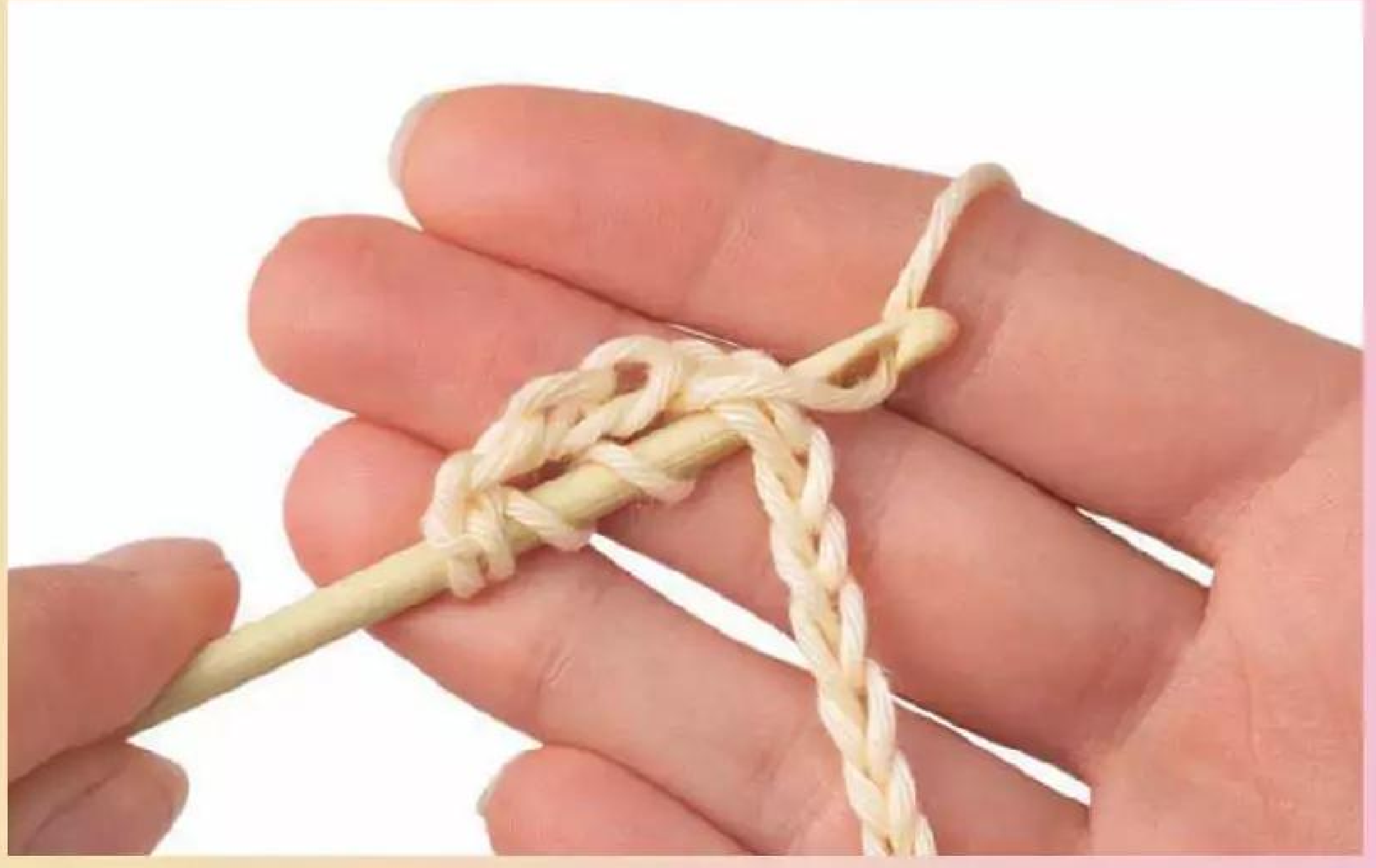
3 Gently pull the yarn through the first two loops on the hook only (2 loops on hook). Yrh and gently pull the yarn through the 2 loops on the hook to finish the stitch.



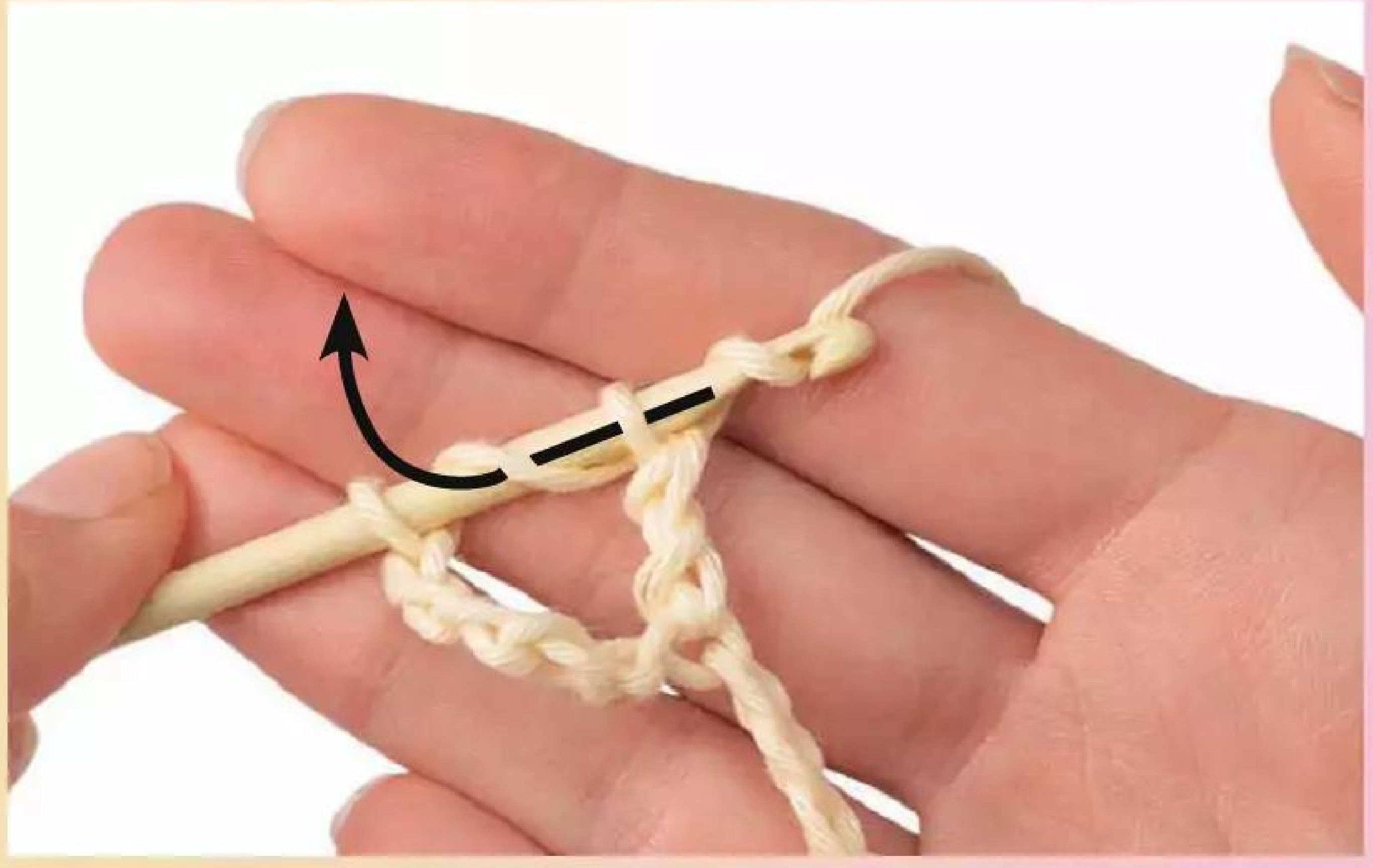
4 Your finished triple treble crochet stitch should look like this (above). You can see how it sits neatly next to the 5-chain turning chain.

LEFT-HAND

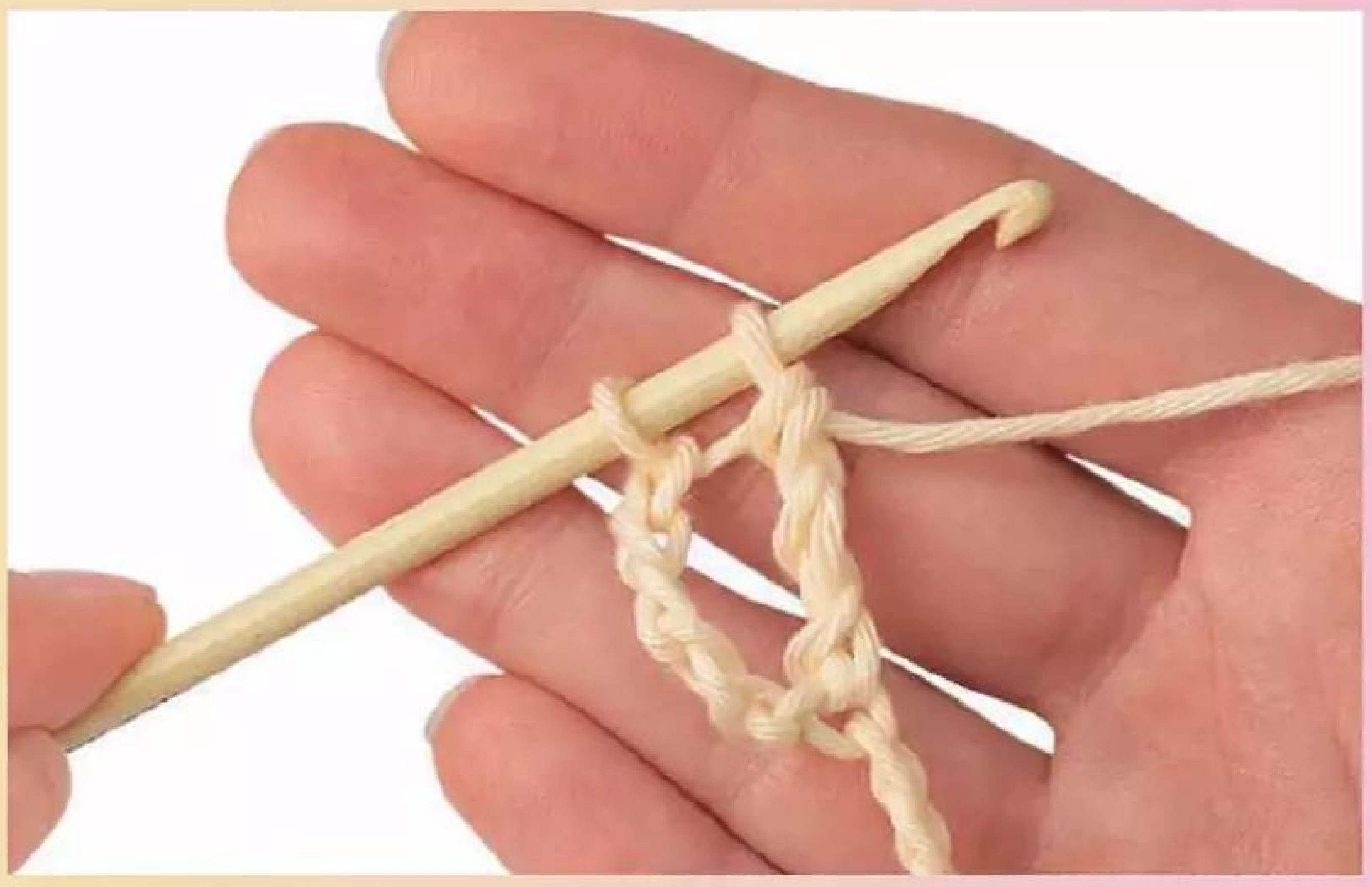
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double treble stitch...



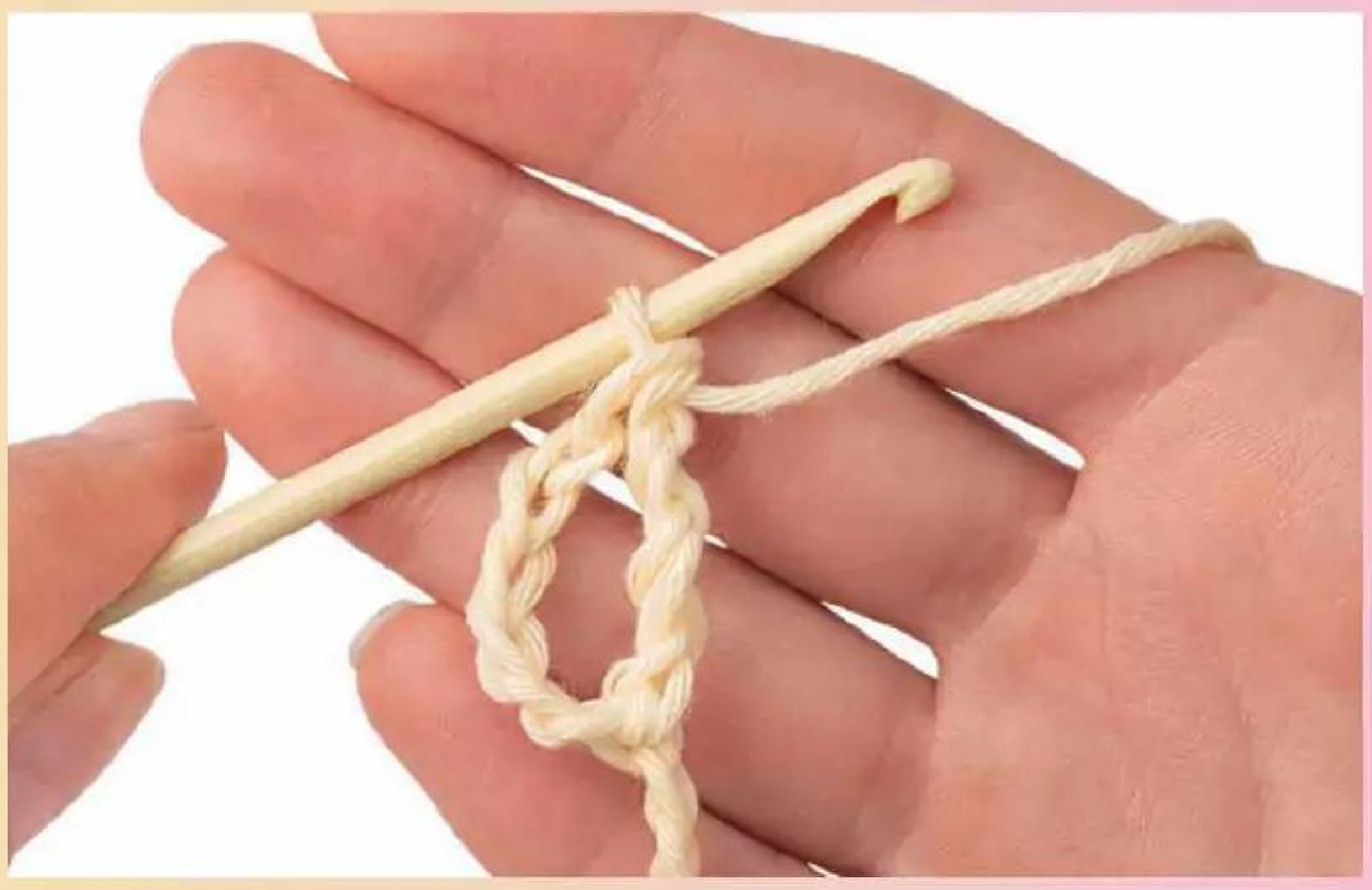
1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook three times and insert hook into 6th chain from hook. Yarn round hook.



2 Gently pull the yarn through the chain loop (5 loops on hook). *Yrh and pull the yarn through the first two loops on the hook (4 loops on hook). Repeat from * (3 loops on hook). Yrh again.



3 Gently pull the yarn through the first two loops on the hook only (2 loops on hook). Yrh and gently pull the yarn through the 2 loops on the hook to finish the stitch.

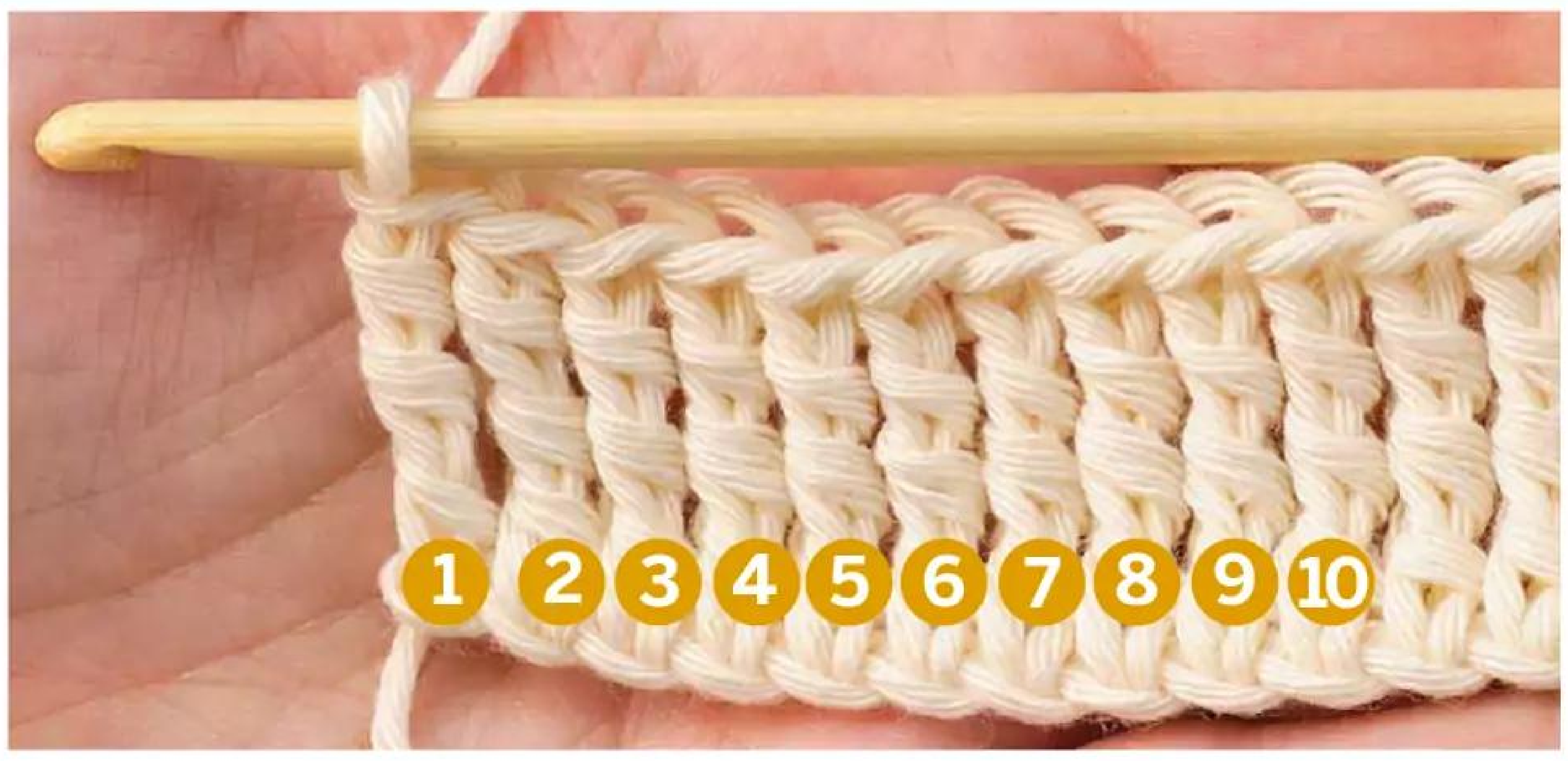


4 Your finished triple treble crochet stitch should look like this (above). You can see how it sits neatly next to the 5-chain turning chain.

HOW TO COUNT STITCHES

Make sure that you have the right number of stitches

Being able to count your stitches is vital and helps to make sure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row, especially after working the first row of stitches into your foundation chain. To count tall stitches such as triple trebles, it's usually easiest to count the tall side 'stem' of the stitch (see right), rather than the v-shaped top of the stitch. If you made 21ch (plus 5 t-chs), you should now have 22 double treble stitches.



TRIPLE TREBLE ROWS

Create more rows of triple trebles to make fabric

The following rows of triple treble are worked in the same way as the foundation row, except you won't now be working each stitch into each chain – instead, you'll be working each stitch into the top of the stitch on the previous row (see below for more).

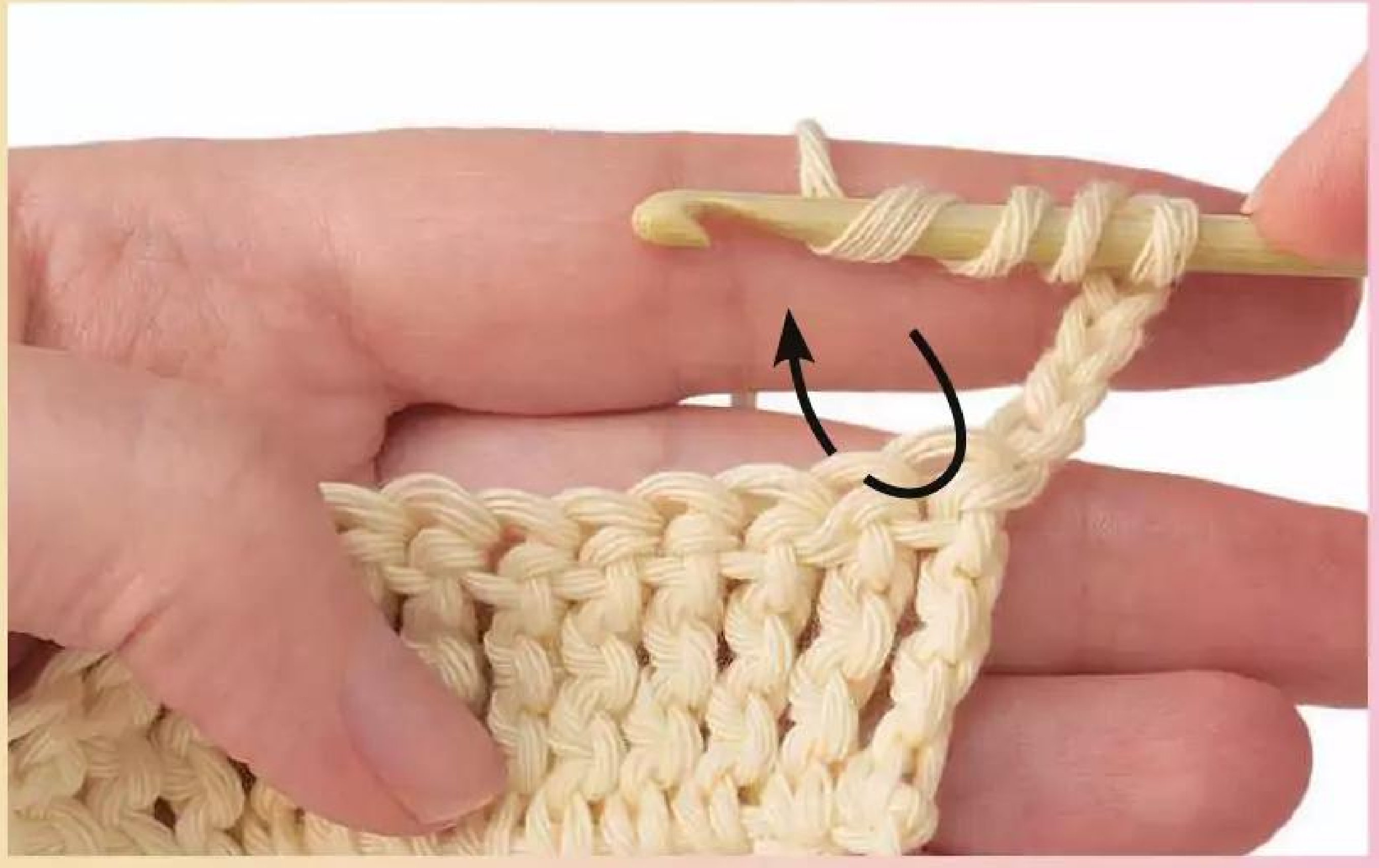
This is just as easy as working stitches into chains – the only extra technique you'll need to know is turning chains (see below right for more).

In triple treble rows, you need to count the turning chain (t-ch) as a stitch at the start of the row, then at the end of the row work a triple treble stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous row. Have a practice and you'll soon get the hang of it.

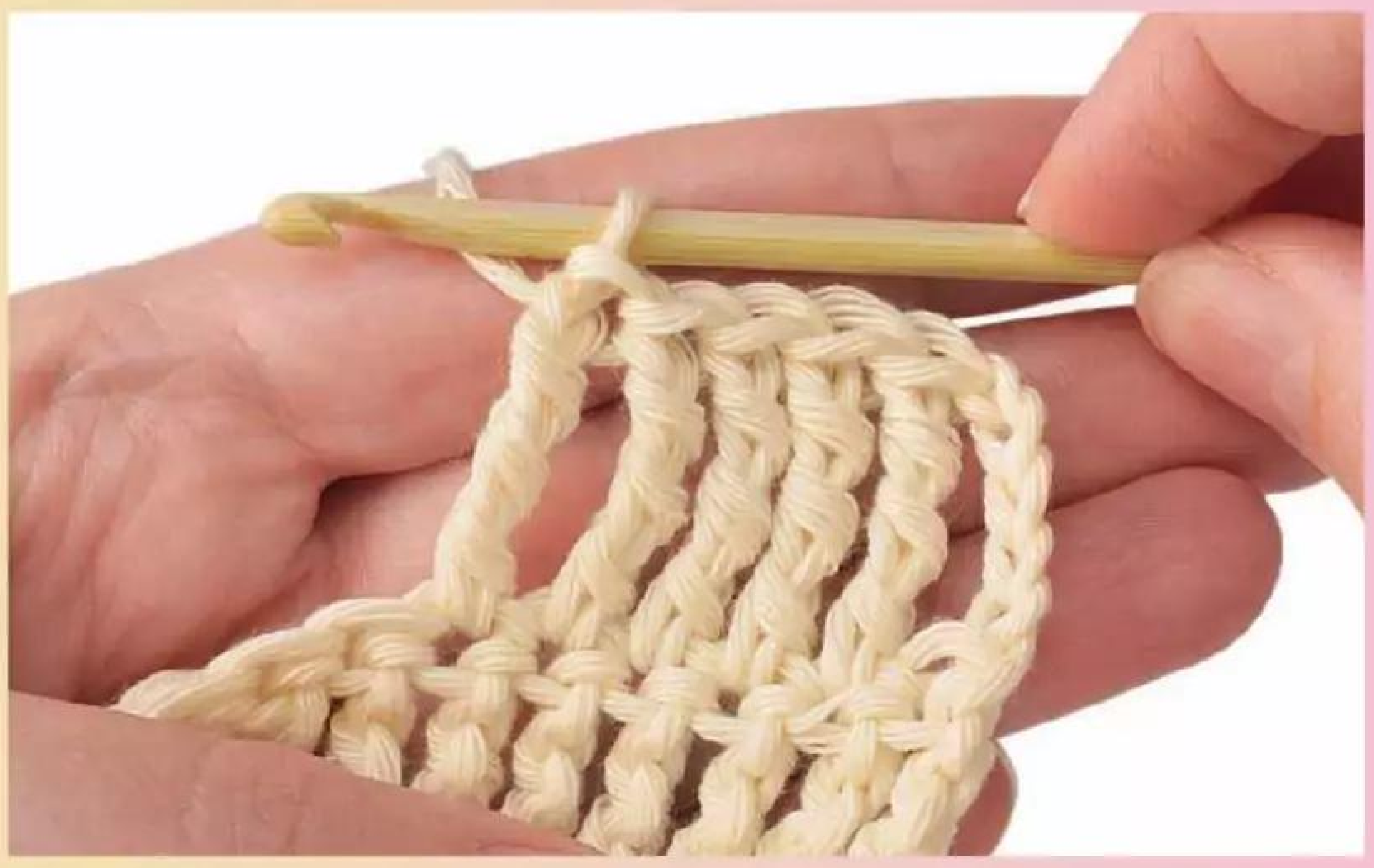
The more rows you work, the larger your piece of triple treble fabric. At the end of each row, count your stitches (this is the 'stitch count') to check you haven't made too many or missed any. It won't take you long and could save you having to undo your work later!

RIGHT-HAND

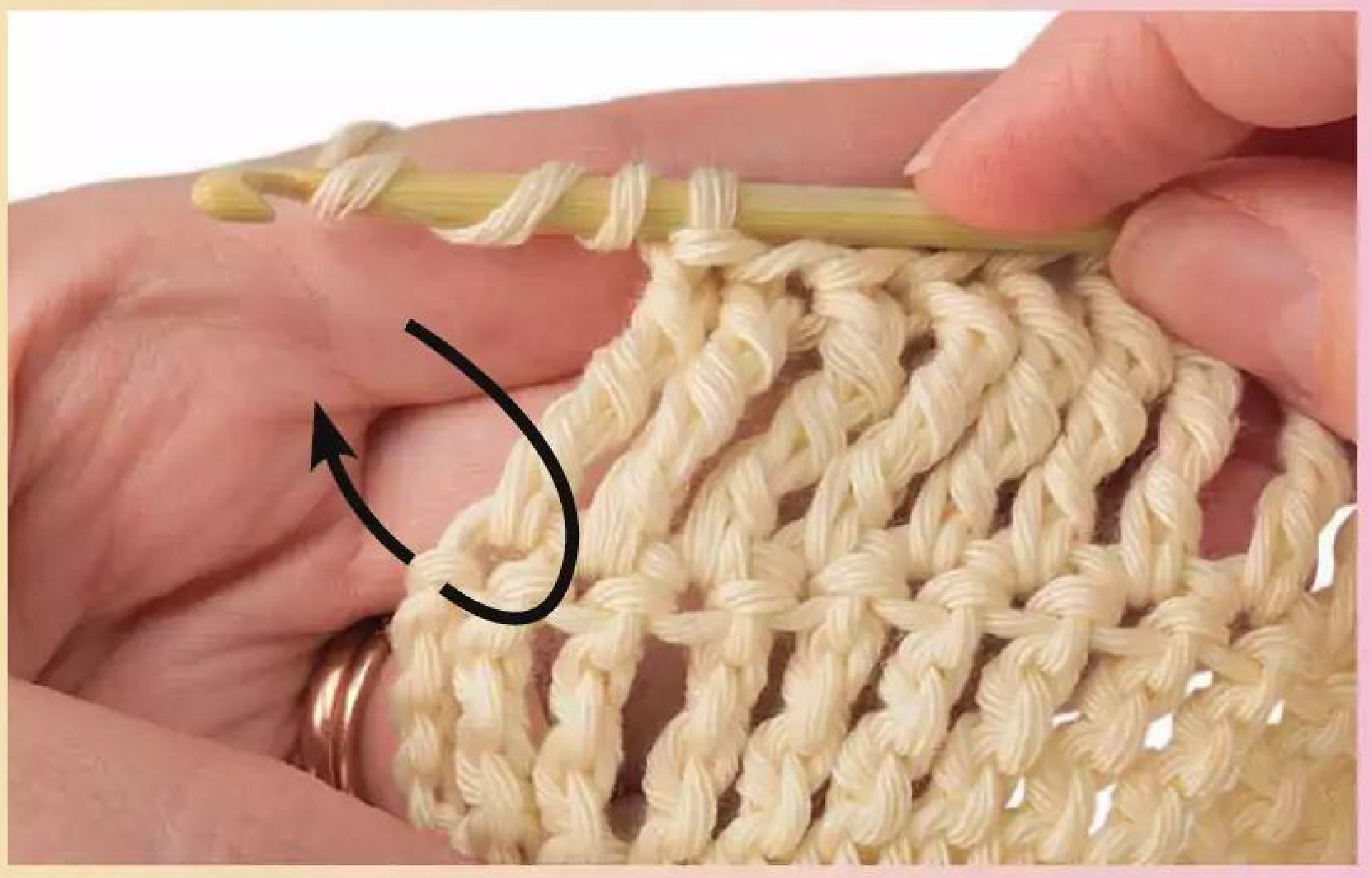
If you're right-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of triple treble...



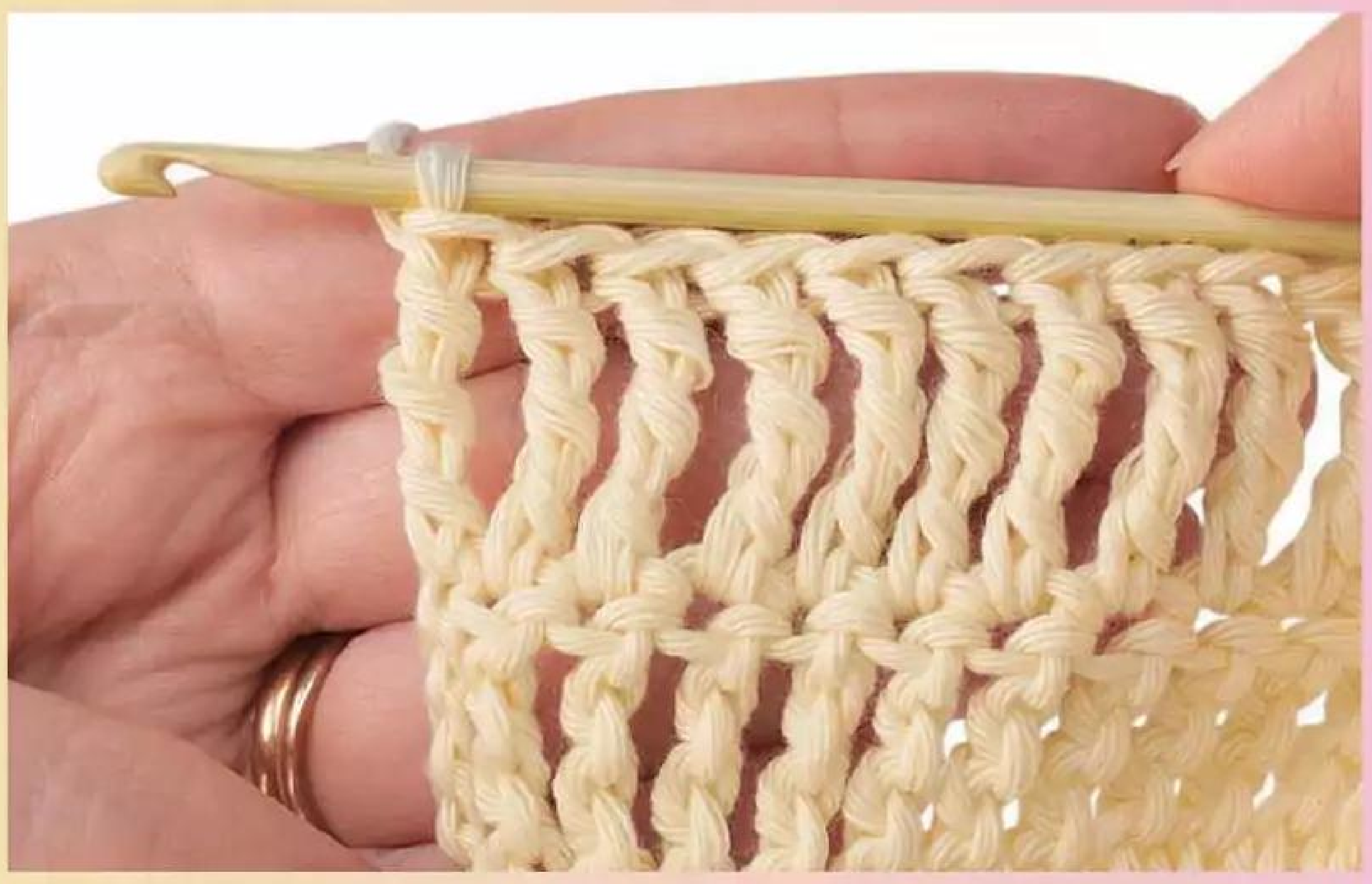
1 Work five chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh three times and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Finish the triple treble stitch as before: yrh, pull yarn through, (yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops) 4 times. Work a ttr into the top of each stitch of the previous row.



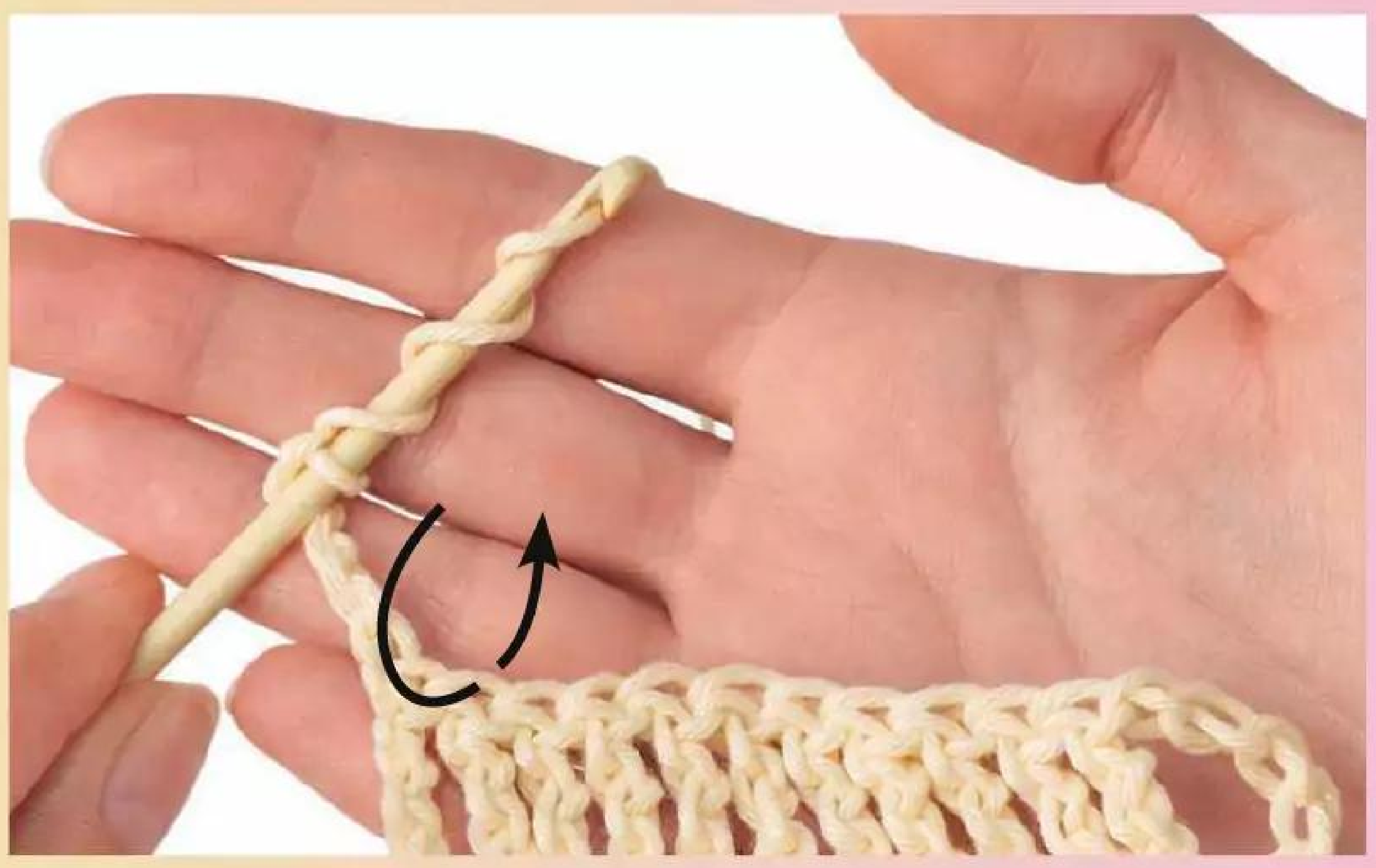
3 To finish the row of triple treble stitches, work the final ttr stitch into the top chain of the turning chain on the previous row.



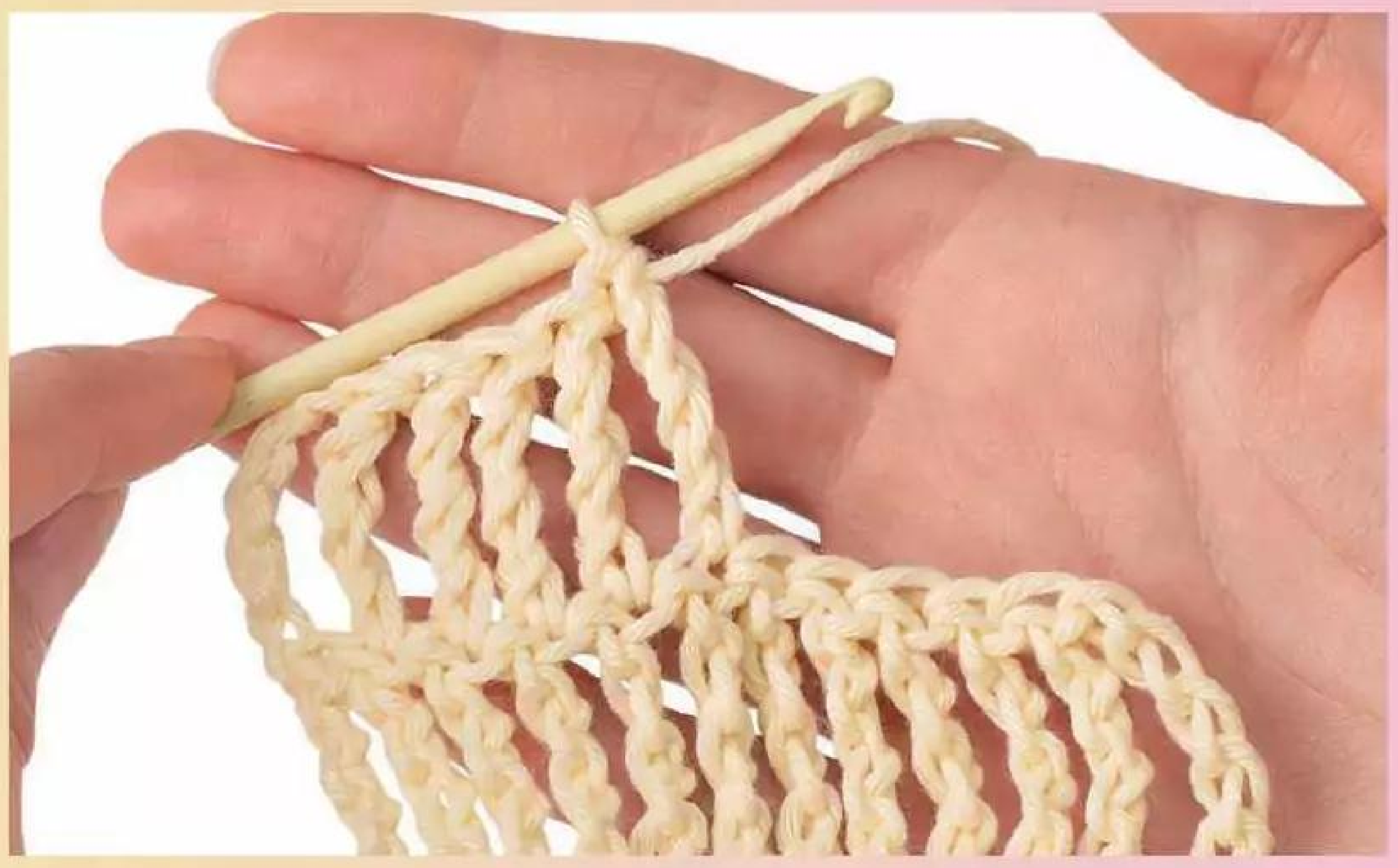
4 Your second row of triple trebles will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

LEFT-HAND

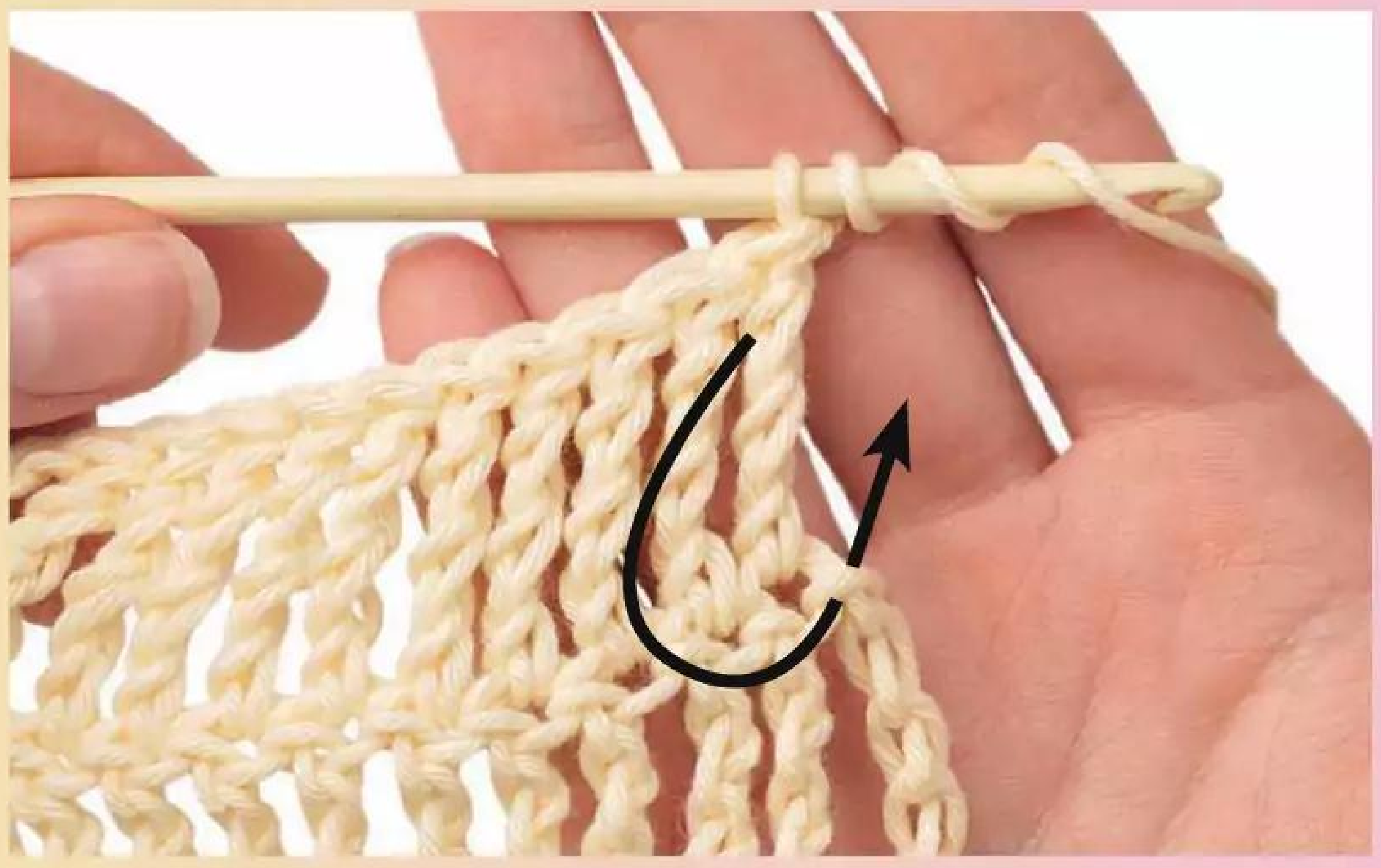
If you're left-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of triple treble...



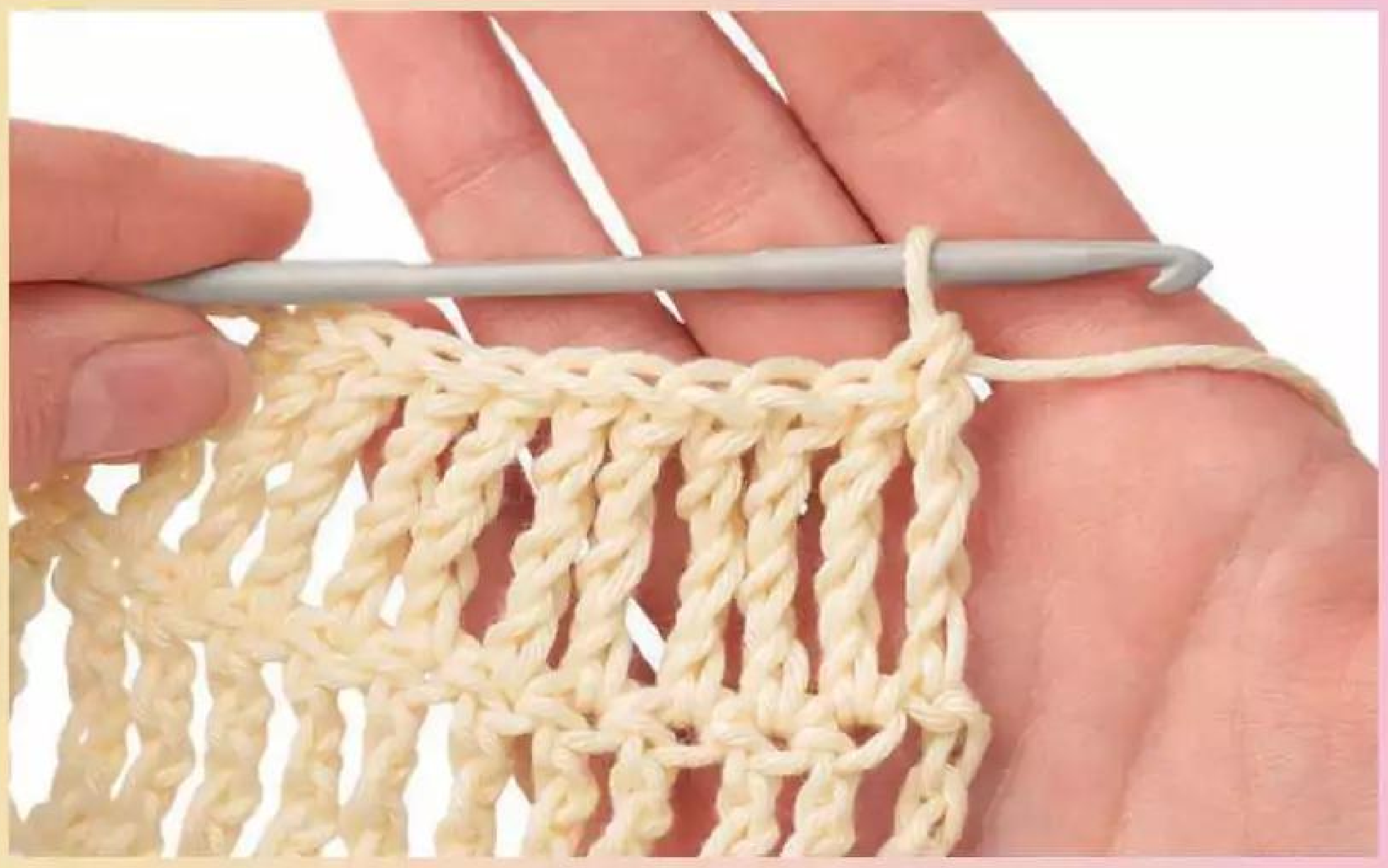
1 Work five chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh three times and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Finish the triple treble stitch as before: yrh, pull yarn through, (yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops) 4 times. Work a ttr into the top of each stitch of the previous row.



3 To finish the row of triple treble stitches, work the final ttr stitch into the top chain of the turning chain on the previous row.



4 Your second row of triple trebles will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

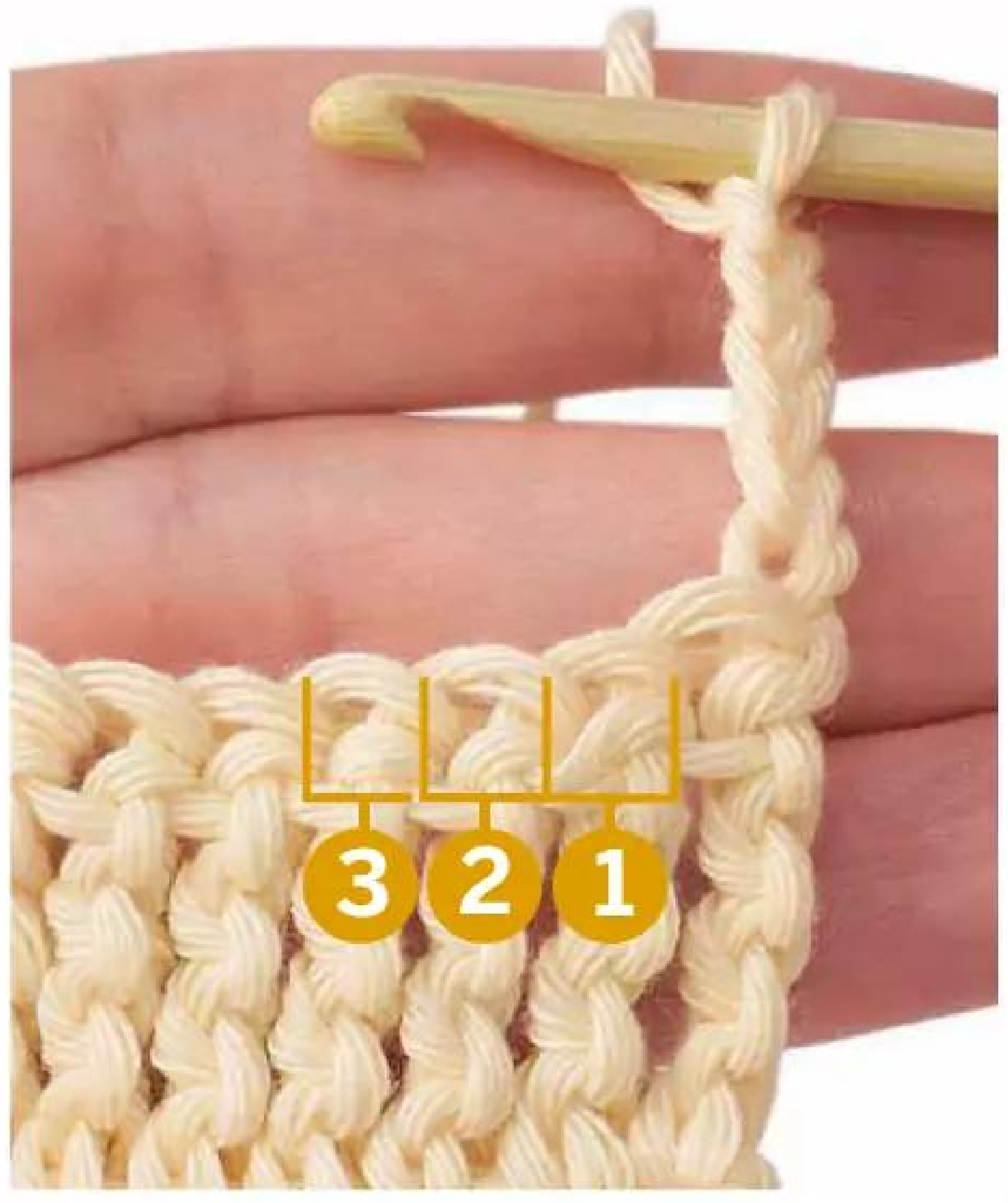
TURNING CHAINS

Use these to bring the hook up to the height of the next row

After each row of triple trebles, you need to turn your fabric and work the turning chain (5 chains for ttr). The picture (right) shows this done and at a point ready to continue the second row.

In crochet, you need to make a t-ch at the start of each row to bring the hook up to the working height for the next row. You usually make the t-ch at the start of the new row, but it was traditionally worked at the end of the row, hence its name. Different stitches need a different length of t-ch (see page 46).

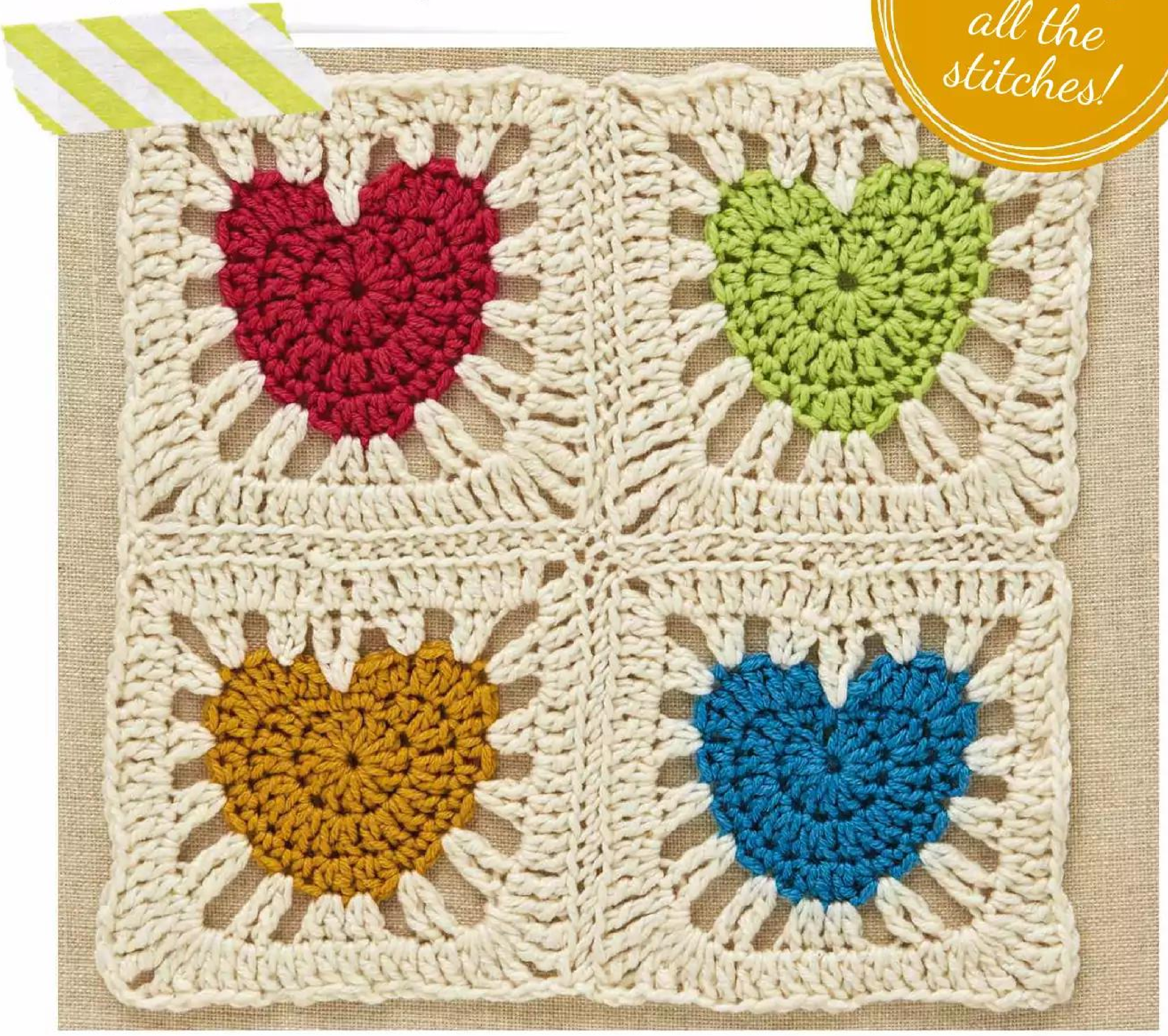
In triple treble fabric, you usually count the t-ch as the first stitch of the new row (unless the pattern states otherwise). The numbers on the image (right) show where to work your first triple treble stitch after the t-ch – into the top of the second stitch on the row below, skipping the stitch at the base of the t-ch.



MULTI-STITCH SQUARES

Spread the love with this super-sweet heart within a square motif! By **Cara Medus**

Practise all the stitches!



YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk DK (75% Merino wool, 20% silk, 5% cashmere, 50g/116m), **Yarn A** Vanilla (003) **Yarn B** Scrumptious (575), or Jelly Bean (604), or Golden Goose (574), or Ahoy! (605)

HOOK

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

NOTIONS

- Scissors
- Tapestry needle

TENSION AND SIZE

Not critical for this project.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 18

HOW TO MAKE THE HEART SQUARE

With Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as first tr), 11tr in loop, ss to top of beg ch-3. [12 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first st, 1tr into next st, 2tr into each of next 8 sts, 1tr into next st, 2dc into last st, ss between last st and first st of round. [22 sts]

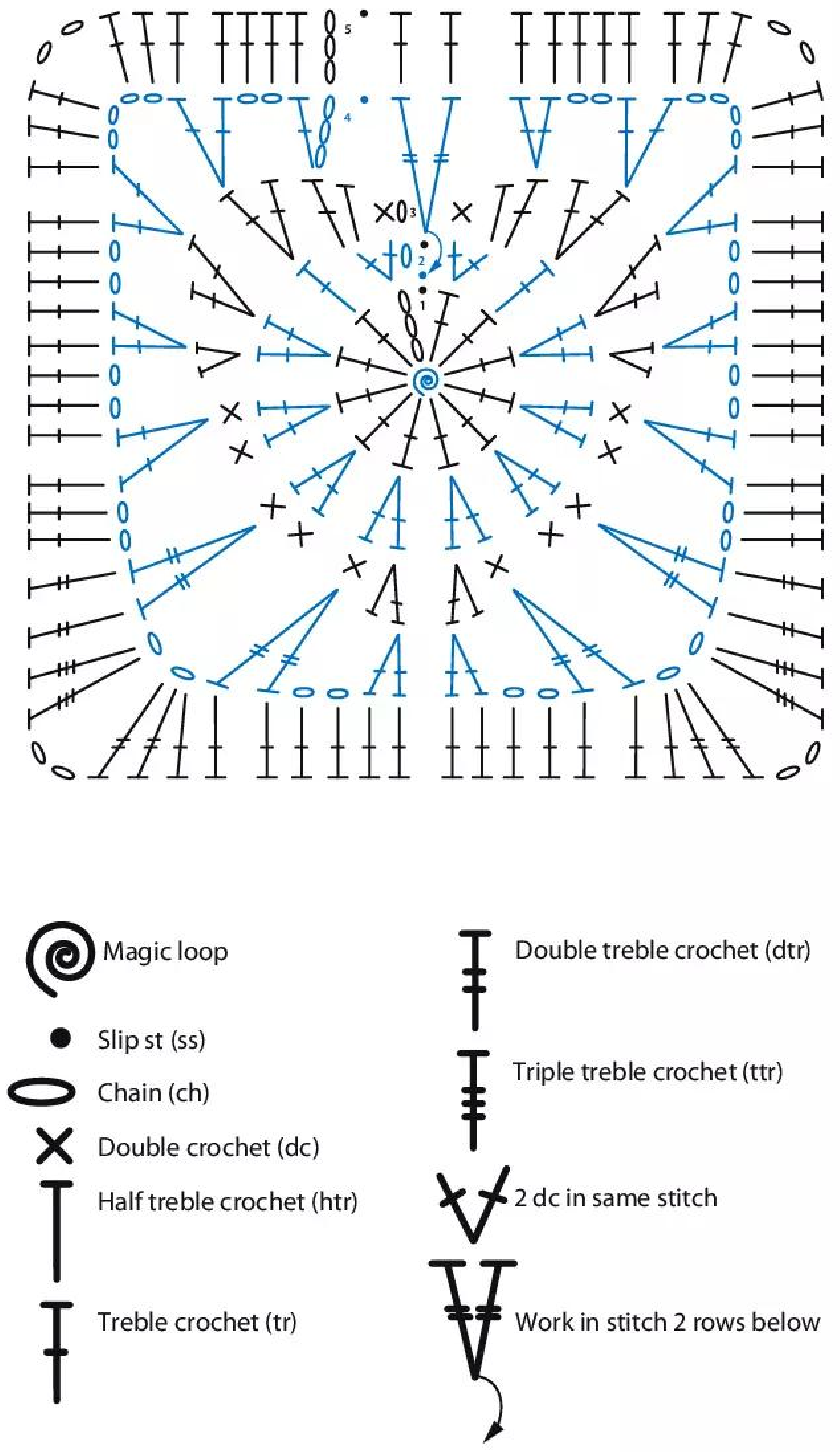
Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first st, (htr, tr) in next st, 2tr in each of next 2 sts, 2htr in next st, 1dc in each of next 5 sts, (htr, tr) in next st, (tr, htr) in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, 2htr in next st, 2tr in each of next 2 sts, (tr, htr) in next st, dc in last st, ss into ss of previous round. Fasten off. [32 sts]

Round 4 Join Yarn A in first tr of Rnd 3. Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr in st at base of ch, ch2, skip 1 st, 2tr in next st, ch4, (2tr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st) 3 times, (2dtr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st) twice, 2tr in each of next 2 sts, ch2, skip 1 st, (2dtr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st) twice, (2tr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st) twice, 2tr in next st, ch4, 2tr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st, 2tr in next st, skip 2 sts, 2dtr in ss from Rnd 2, ss to top of beg ch-3. [34 sts, 12 ch-2 sp, 2 ch-4 sp]

Round 5 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr in next st, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in ch-4 sp, work a tr in each st and 2tr in each ch-2 sp until a further 12 tr have been worked, 1dtr in each of next 2 dtr, (2ttr, ch2, 2dtr, tr) in next ch-2 sp, work a tr in each st and 2tr in each ch-2 sp until a further 12tr have been worked, (tr, 2dtr, ch2, 2ttr) in next ch-2 sp, 1dtr in each of next 2 dtr, work a tr in each st and 2tr in each ch-2 sp until a further 12 tr have been worked, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in ch-4 sp, work a tr in each st and 2tr in each ch-2 sp until a further 8 tr have been worked, ss to top of beg ch-3. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

If you prefer, work from the chart (right). Find our guide to using charts at www.gathered.how.

Join motif edges with an overstitch (see page 129 for our sewing guide).


Magic loop
Slip st (ss)
Chain (ch)
Double crochet (dc)
Half treble crochet (htr)
Treble crochet (tr)
Double treble crochet (dtr)
Triple treble crochet (ttr)
2 dc in same stitch
Work in stitch 2 rows below

CROCHET AMIGURUMI

Making toys doesn't get any cuter than amigurumi, the traditional Japanese style of crocheting adorable critters and fantasy figures. We'll show you the basic skills you'll need

ALL ABOUT... AMIGURUMI

Creating cute critters and adorable toys is a great way to use your crochet skills, whether you make them for yourself or as gifts for all the family. **By Becky Skuse & Emma Clegg**

Amigurumi toys are some of the most popular projects for crocheters and it's easy to see why – they're high on aah-factor and low on difficulty, plus they make great gifts. In fact, many crocheters start learning the craft in order to make these adorable toys.

The trend for crocheted toys started in Japan with 'amigurumi', a word used to describe crocheted or knitted stuffed toys. In Japanese, 'ami' means 'crocheted or knitted', and 'nuigurumi' means 'sew and wrap'. These cute dolls and animals soared in popularity during the 1970s in Japan, and it was from this craft form that the famous 'Hello Kitty' brand was born.

The original style of amigurumi toys had very specific characteristics: oversized heads; sweet, human-like features; a small, cylindrical body; undersized arms and feet or no limbs at all. Many amigurumi toys have a head and body that is crocheted as one piece.

In the world of crochet nowadays, the word 'amigurumi' has come to describe any cute crocheted toy, whether or not it fits into that original amigurumi style. Animals are the most popular toys, but there are also dolls, aliens, plants, food, furnishings and more that are made into toys with human features.

Amigurumi is great for new crocheters because the toys are usually small and straightforward to make. The minimal amounts of yarn involved make them inexpensive and a great portable project for taking out and about. Most only use double crochet stitches, worked in the round but in spirals of stitches without closing off each round – we'll show you how to do this.

We've already covered most of the skills you'll need to work amigurumi patterns, including double crochet shaping and the magic loop technique, but there are a few more techniques we'll show you to make sure you can create perfect toys.

THE RUNDOWN

DENSE FABRIC

Amigurumi toys are usually made using only double crochet stitches. The yarns involved are usually around DK in weight, with a hook that's smaller than you might normally use for that weight of yarn. All this helps to create a firm, dense fabric that won't allow the stuffing to show through.

SIMPLE TECHNIQUES

Amigurumi patterns may seem daunting, but these toys usually use only simple techniques, most of which we've already covered. You'll need to work double crochet stitches (see page 34) in the round (see page 56), but in spirals, which we'll show you how to do overleaf. You'll also find it helpful to use stitch markers to keep track of each spiral round, so we'll show you how to do this on page 118. Finally, you'll also need to work

Three to try! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your hook at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Crochet* magazine! To get the patterns from the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues by downloading the *Simply Crochet* app in the App Store, or to view on an Android device or a computer, find us on www.zinio.com/gb/simply-crochet-m6370. Every purchase is stored permanently in your magazine library and can be accessed without internet access.

1 *Stiff upper lip!*

BEGINNER

Start your amigurumi fun with these fun eggs, they're easy for beginners to crochet in spirals. Turn to page 120 for the pattern then focus on bringing them to life with felt and embroidery details.

2 *Fluff it up!*

IMPROVER

How could you resist making these adorable reindeer? He's designed by Becky Skuse, from issue 76 of *Simply Crochet*. It's a chance to try brushed amigurumi – another useful and simple technique.

3 *Fancy that!*

EXPERT

This cutie from issue 86 of *Simply Crochet* dips into fantasy, and will challenge your crochet and finishing ability. Designed by Kate McCully, he's based on a Fennec fox – but also looks a bit like a bunny!

double crochet increases and decreases, which we covered on pages 76 and 78.

SEWING AND STUFFING

Some amigurumi patterns involve crocheting lots of different pieces. It's a good idea to label each piece after you fasten off, so it's easier to identify the pieces when you come to sew them together. Some patterns will ask you to stuff the toy while you're sewing the pieces together, or even while you're still crocheting. Always use specialist toy stuffing and insert small amounts at a time, adding more stuffing slowly until you achieve the right look. Your stuffing should be firm but not distort the fabric.

IN THE DETAIL

One of the most important parts of toy-making is the finishing detail, especially on the face. Some patterns ask you to add these details with pieces of felt, buttons or embroidery threads and stitches. Take your time when finishing your creature and pay attention to the original photos, and you'll really bring it to life!

CROCHET SPHERES

Perfect for making heads

SPHERE SHAPE

Most amigurumi creatures involve making a basic sphere shape, which is perfect for the heads and bodies of your toys. Making spheres involves increasing the number of stitches on the first few rounds, and then decreasing the number of stitches on the last few rounds. We covered increasing in double crochet on page 76 and decreasing on page 78. If you can make this shape, you can make almost any amigurumi toy.

SEAMLESS ROUNDS

To work a sphere like this, you need to work in the round. Start with a magic loop foundation ring and work the first round of stitches into the centre. By working in the round, there will be no seams to sew up later – you can crochet the creature three-dimensionally and even stuff it as you go.

FIRM STUFFING

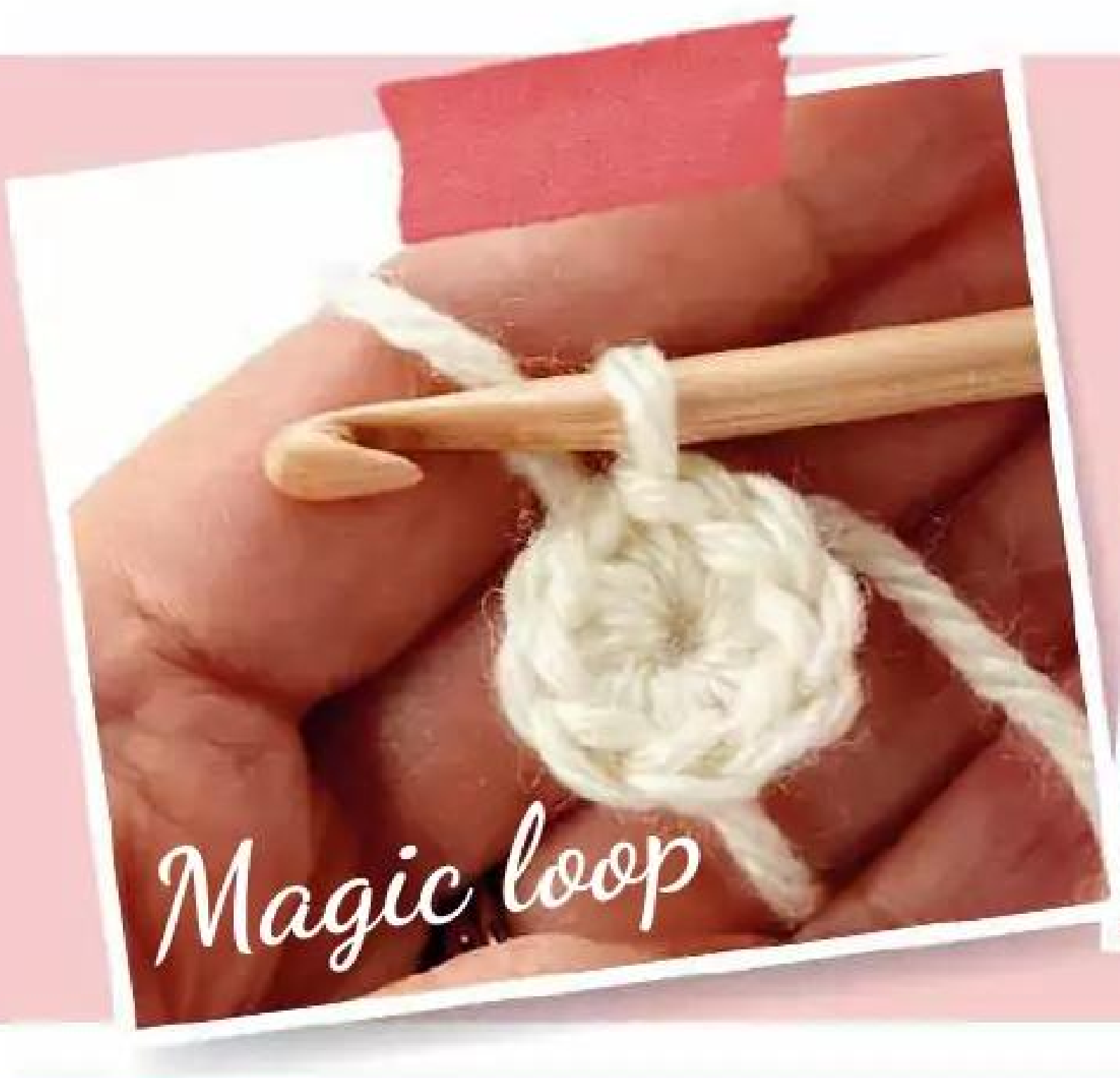
When stuffing, it's best to stick to specially made polyester toy stuffing, which is available in most craft shops or online. When you're stuffing your toy, do it slowly and gently, adding stuffing in small amounts until you achieve a neat, firm look.

SMALL FACES

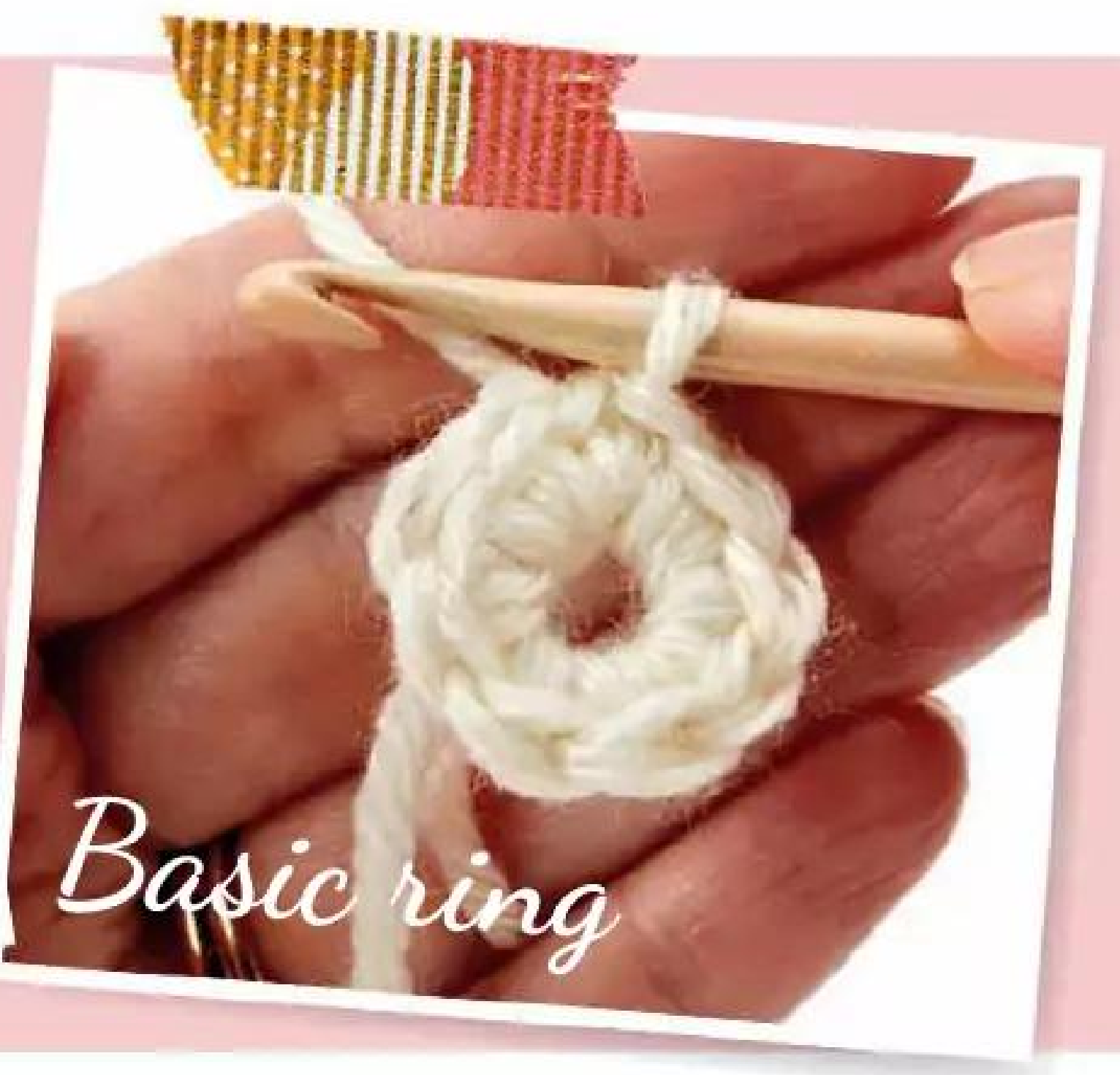
Creating your creature's face will bring it to life so take extra care over this part. Personalise your toy with felt, buttons, fabric and embroidery. Try to plan ahead and don't be afraid to undo and rework any details if they don't look right.

STARTING OFF

Most amigurumi patterns instruct you to start off by working a magic loop. We've shown you how to do this on page 62. This type of foundation ring is the best method to use for amigurumi because it leaves no hole at the centre, unlike the basic ring (see right), so you shouldn't get any stuffing creeping out of the hole. Magic loops are easy once you've had some practice.



Magic loop



Basic ring

CROCHET TUBES

Great for making limbs

TUBE SHAPE

Many amigurumi toys involve crocheting basic tube shapes and you can see from the photo (right) that the tubes are ideal for the arms and legs of your amigurumi creature. Making tubes is very simple because they're worked straight. You simply work on the same number of stitches around and around in a spiral. If you can make a sphere and this shape, you can make almost any amigurumi toy.

STUFF AS YOU GO

To work a tube like this, you need to work in the round. Start with a magic loop foundation ring and work the first round of stitches into the centre. Continue on these stitches, around and around. By working in the round, there will be no seams to sew up later – you can crochet the creature three-dimensionally and even stuff it as you go.

DENSE DOUBLE CROCHET

Most amigurumi patterns stick to using double crochet stitches and fairly small hooks. The result is a dense fabric that will hold in all that polyester stuffing.

USING STITCH MARKERS

With tubes like this, you'll have a small number of stitches and large number of spiral rounds to cope with. You'll find it helpful to use a stitch marker to mark the start/end of each round and help you keep track of where you are in the pattern. We'll show you how to do this on p118.

WORK IN SPIRALS

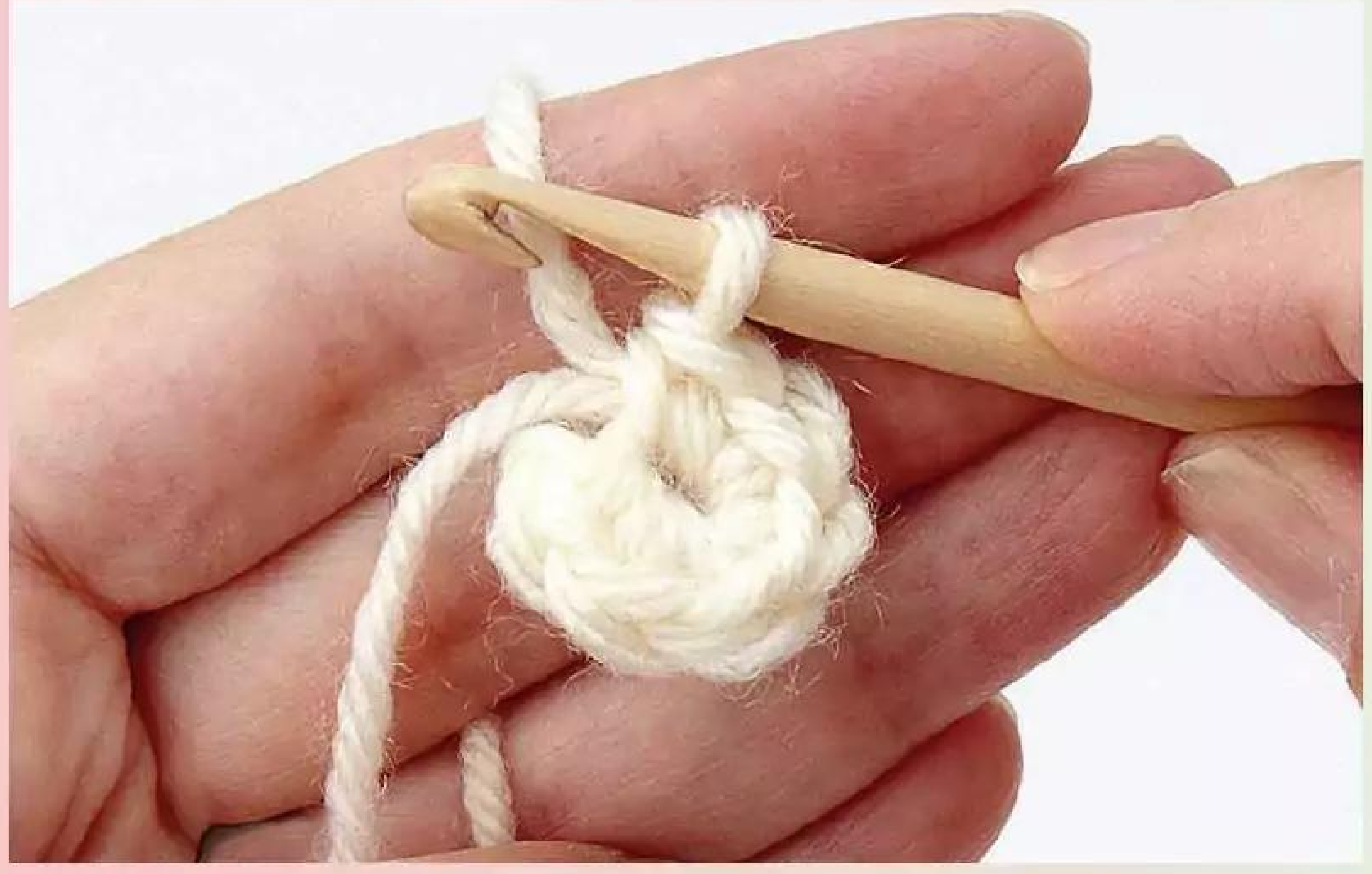
How to work in the round using the amigurumi method

When you work amigurumi toys, most patterns ask you to work your stitches in the round, but in a spiral shape rather than individual circles. To start off, you'll still need to make a foundation ring – the magic loop is best because it leaves no hole at the centre (see page 62 for a reminder on how to work it).

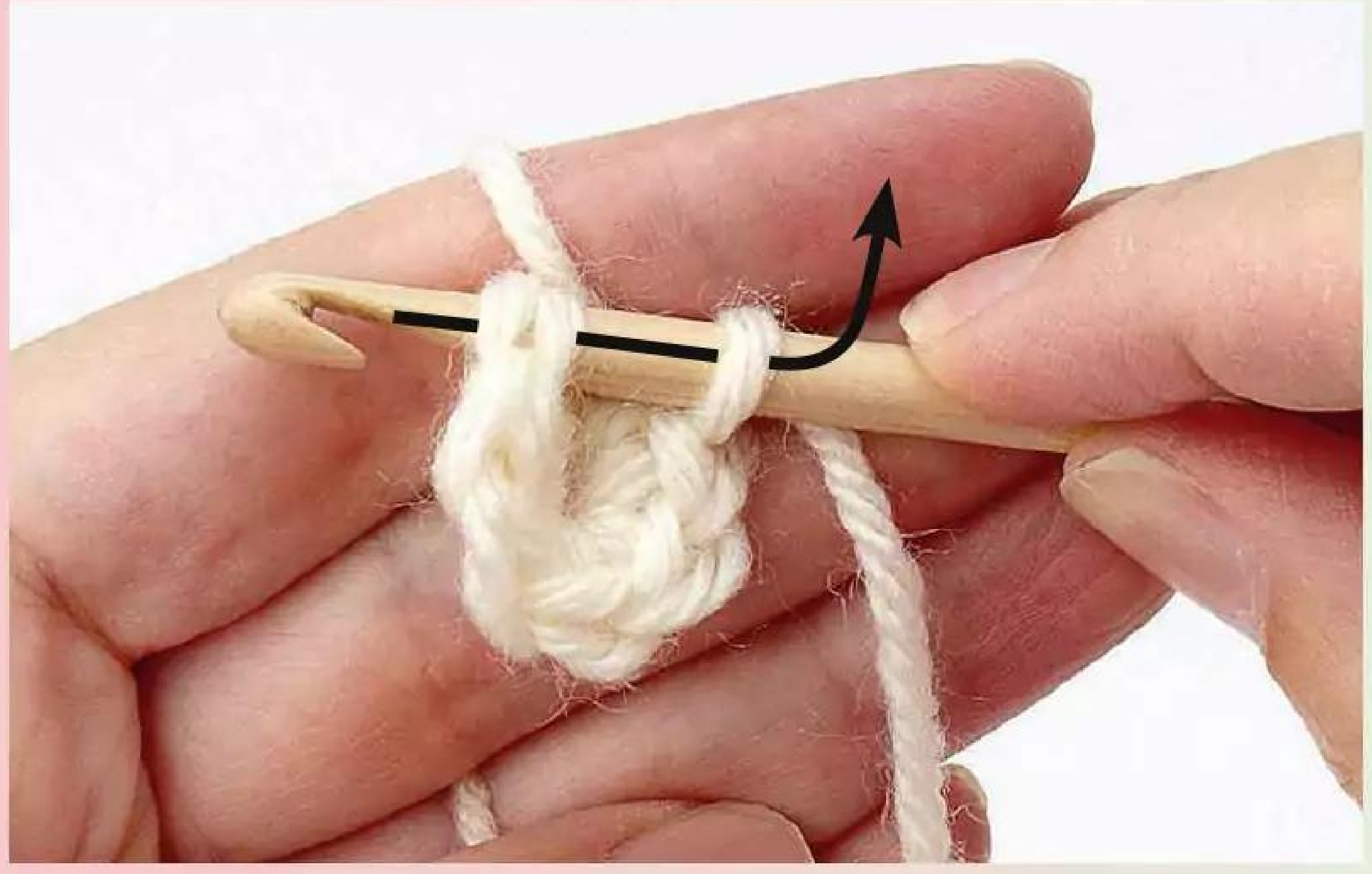
If you prefer, you could work a different foundation ring, such as a basic ring (see page 54), but you may need to sew up the hole at the centre before you begin to stuff your toy. Once you have your foundation ring, make one t-ch and work your first round of double crochet stitches into the ring. To practise the spiral technique, try working 12 dc stitches. Stop after you've worked the last stitch of the first round. If you've worked a magic loop, tighten it up. Then follow our instructions below to practise working in a spiral.

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these steps to work stitches in a spiral...

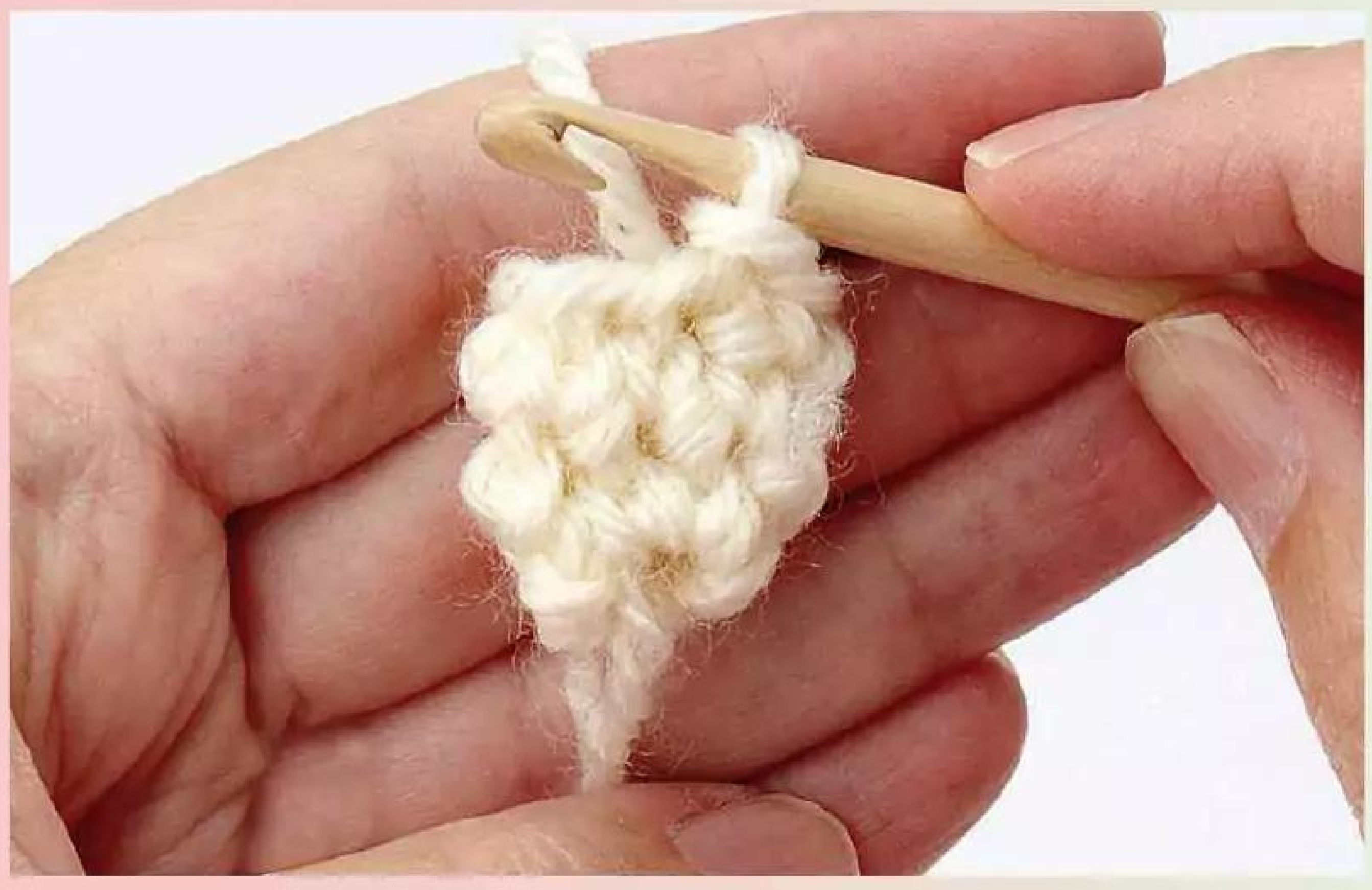


1 After working the last stitch of the first round, don't join it to the first stitch with a slip stitch, like you usually do when working in the round. Instead, work the next double crochet stitch into the first stitch you made.



2 To do this, insert hook under the top two loops of the first stitch of the first round. Yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through two loops. That's your dc stitch made and you'll now be working in a spiral.

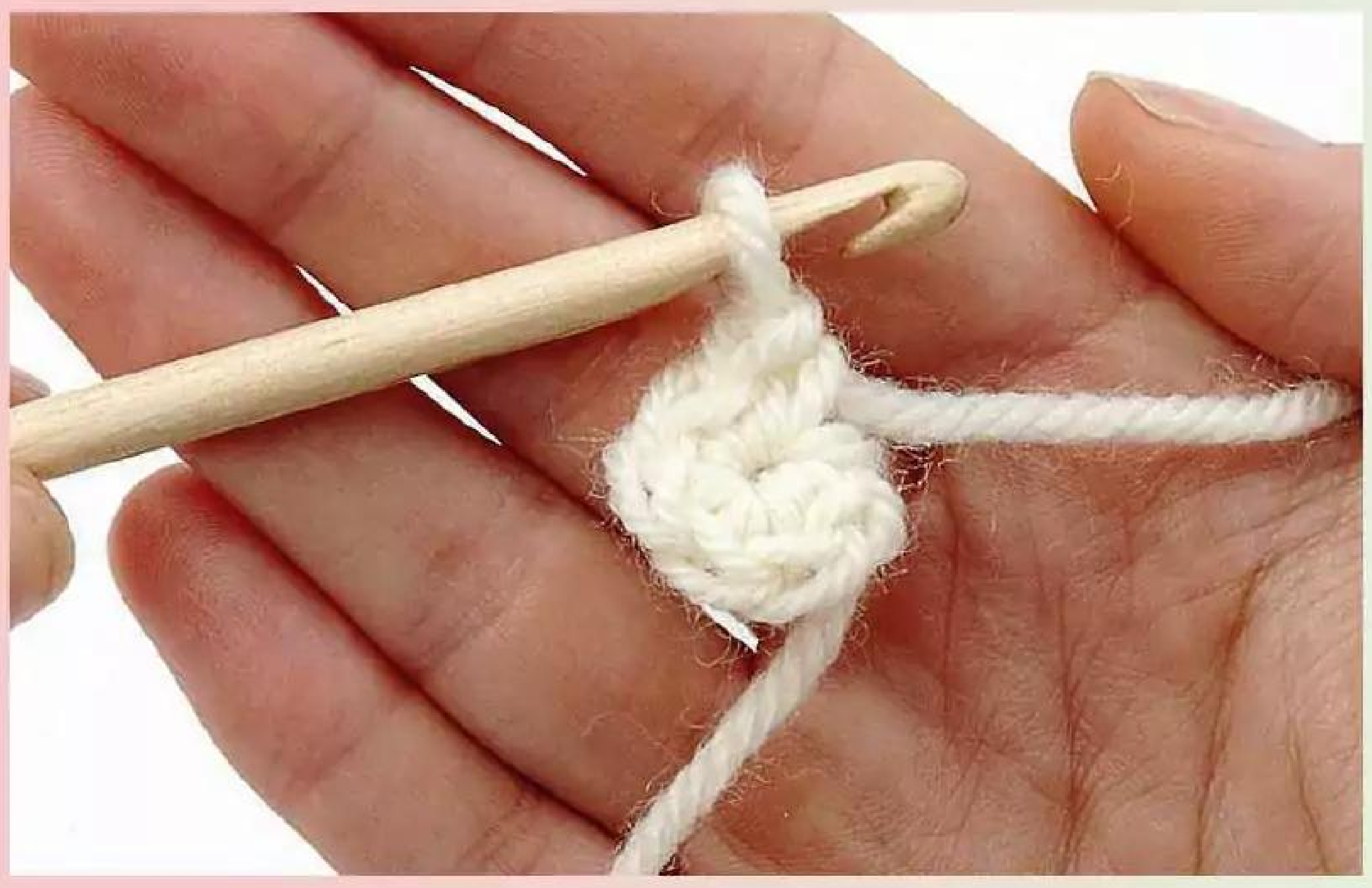
3 Continue to work more rounds of double crochet stitches in a spiral, according to your pattern instructions. On the last round, you need to finish off the spiral neatly.



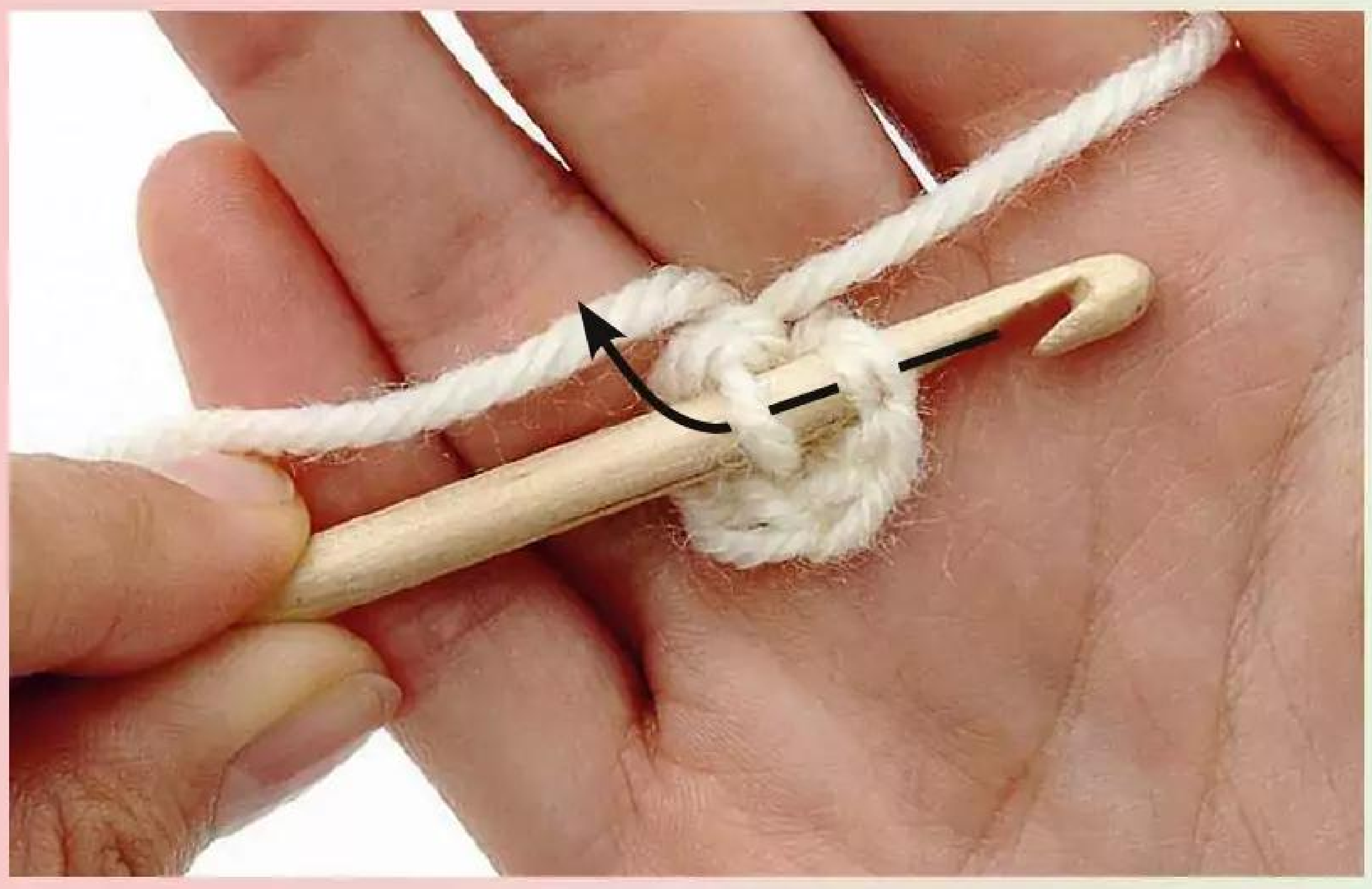
4 To do this, after you've worked the last dc stitch of the last round, insert hook into the next stitch and work a slip stitch (yrh and pull through all loops). (There's no need to do this if you're just changing colour.)

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these steps to work stitches in a spiral...



1 After working the last stitch of the first round, don't join it to the first stitch with a slip stitch, like you usually do when working in the round. Instead, work the next double crochet stitch into the first stitch you made.



2 To do this, insert hook under the top two loops of the first stitch of the first round. Yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through two loops. That's your dc stitch made and you'll now be working in a spiral.

3 Continue to work more rounds of double crochet stitches in a spiral, according to your pattern instructions. On the last round, you need to finish off the spiral neatly.

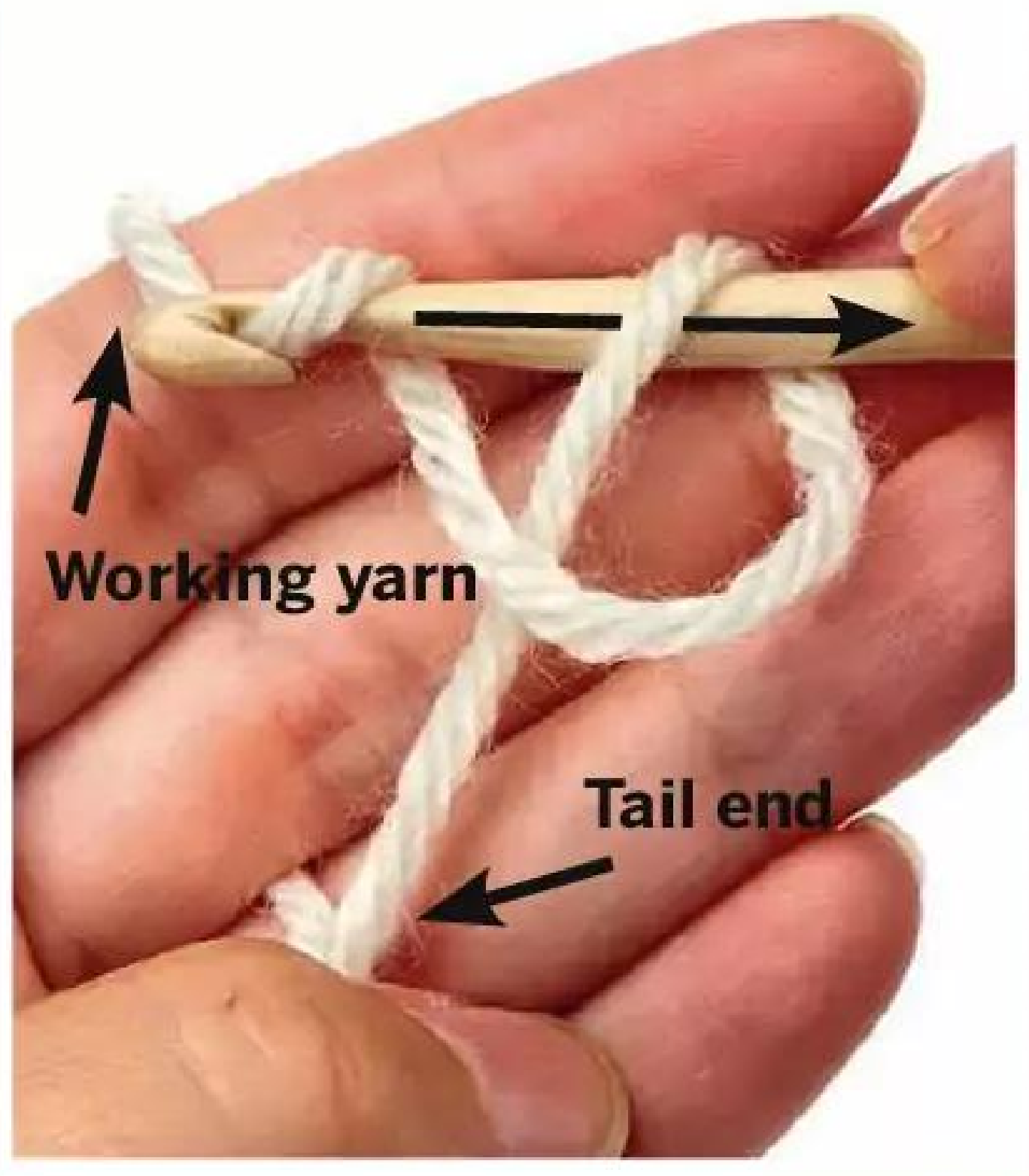
4 To do this, after you've worked the last dc stitch of the last round, insert hook into the next stitch and work a slip stitch (yrh and pull through all loops). (There's no need to do this if you're just changing colour.)

MAGIC LOOP FOUNDATION RING

A quick reminder of the best way to start off your amigurumi

The magic loop is great for amigurumi because it leaves no hole in the centre. With a bit of practice, it will become automatic.

To create the magic loop, work as follows: make a loop of yarn, with the 10cm-long tail end underneath the working yarn. Insert hook into the loop, from front to back, yrh and pull the yarn through the loop. Yrh and pull through to make one t-ch for double crochet. Work the first round of double crochet stitches into the loop, over both the loop itself and the tail end (two strands of yarn). Pull the tail end of yarn to close the ring.



CHANGE COLOUR

How to change colour in a spiral and use stitch markers

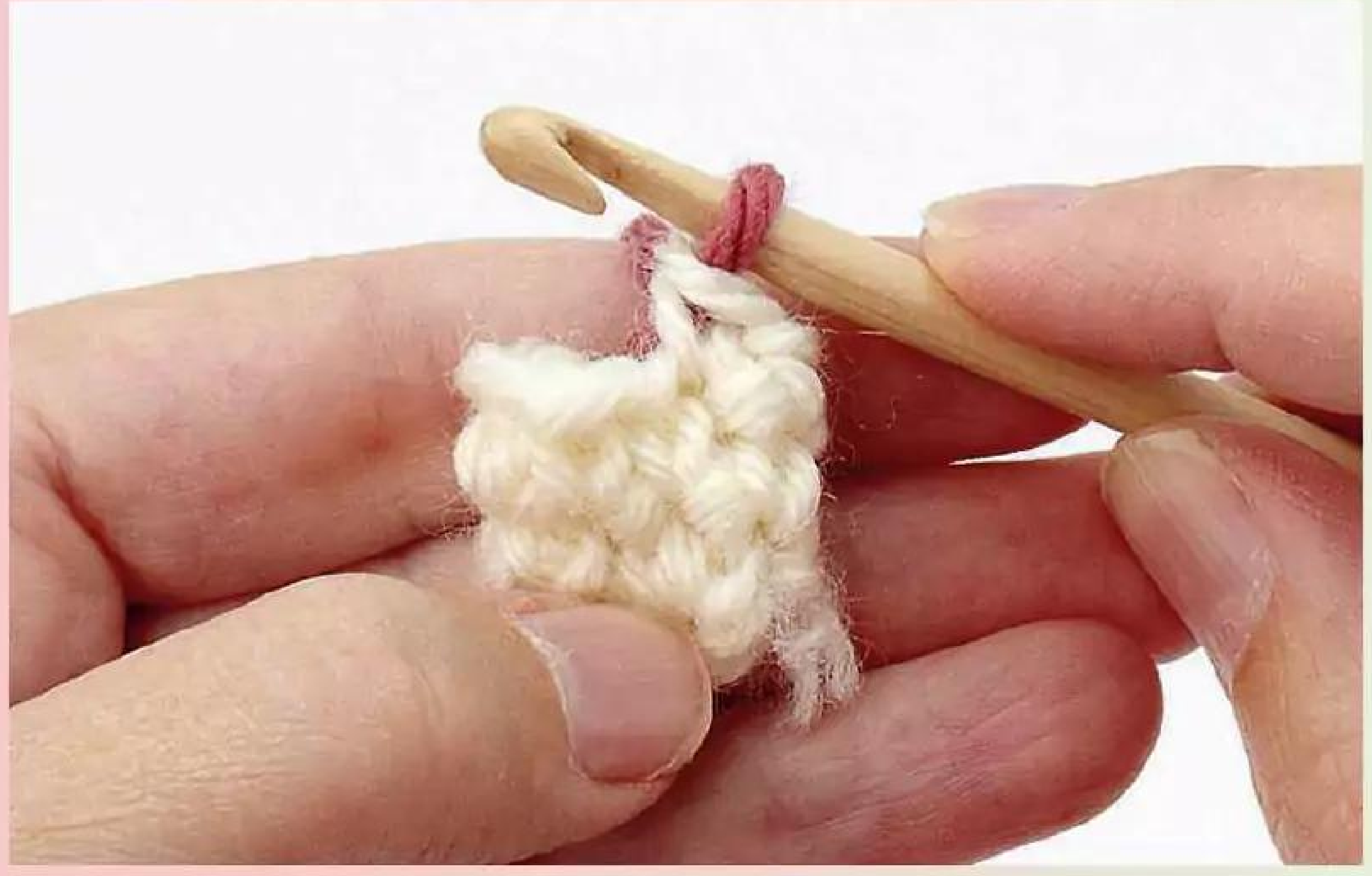
Changing colour in spiral rounds is very easy and uses the same technique as we've shown you already, on page 70. As before, you'll need to bring in the new yarn colour on the final 'yarn round hook' motion of the last stitch in the old yarn colour.

You can use the same technique to create stripes of colour on the legs, arms or bodies of toys. However, once you've tried it, you'll see that the spiral way of working means there will be a 'step' or 'jog' of colour in your stripes. This is totally natural and you haven't done it wrong! Many crocheters simply hide that part of the fabric during the making up stage of the toy, rather than having it on show. For example, make the line of stepped stitches the back of the leg rather than the front.

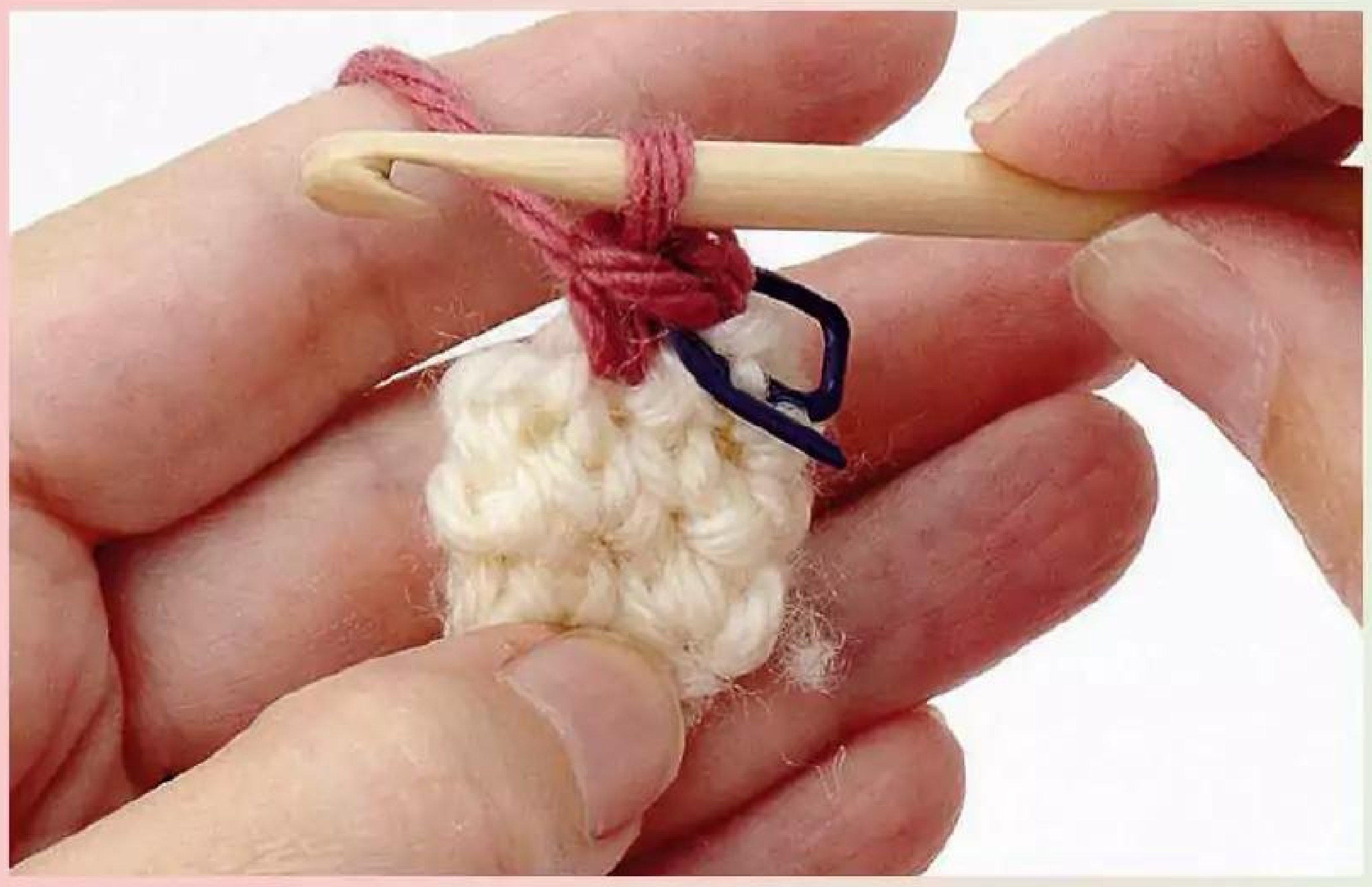
If your pattern includes several colour changes, use stitch markers to keep track of your spiral rounds. We'll show you how to do this below. You'll need markers that open rather than the rings knitters may use.

RIGHT-HAND

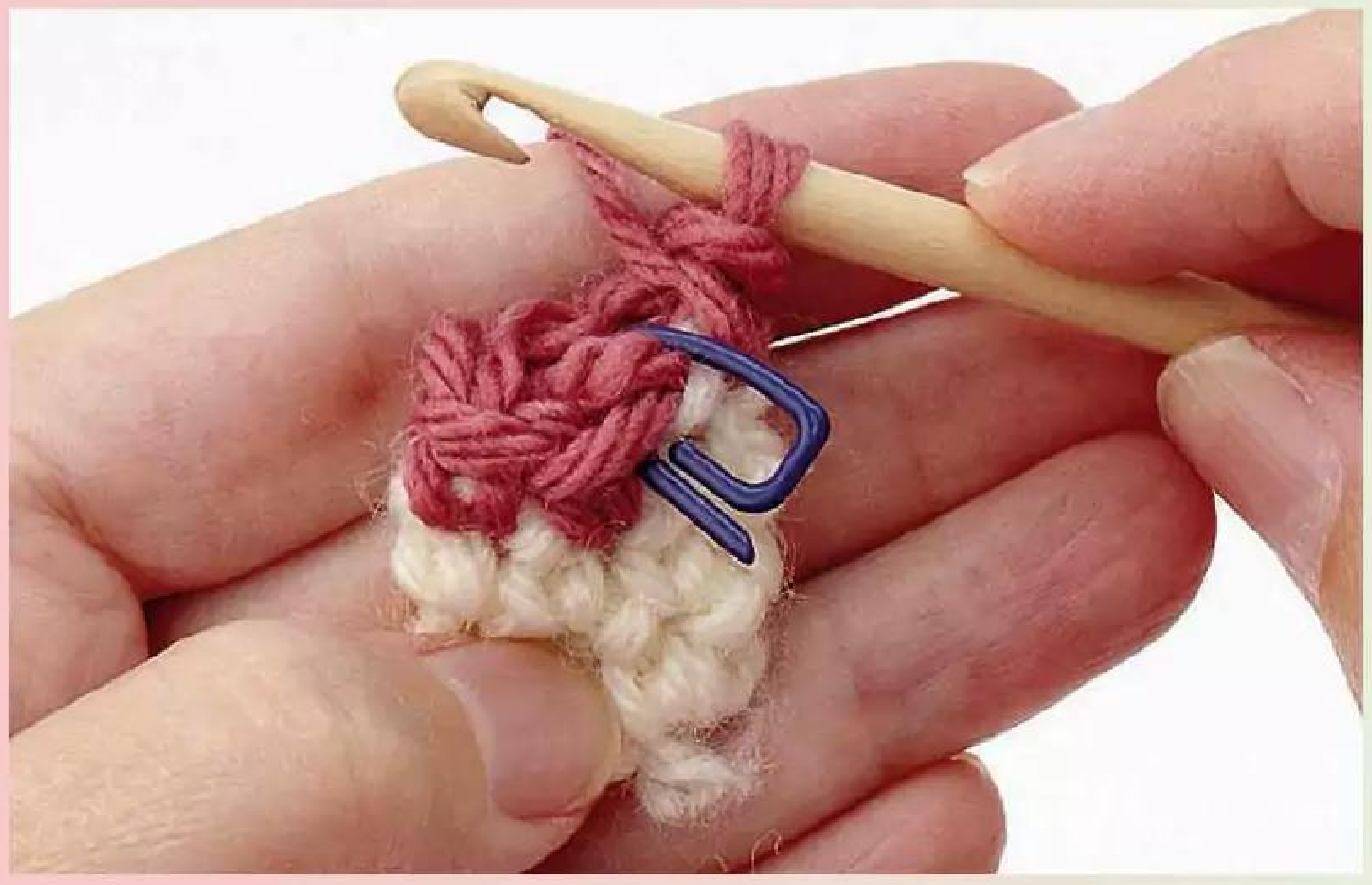
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to change colour and use stitch markers…



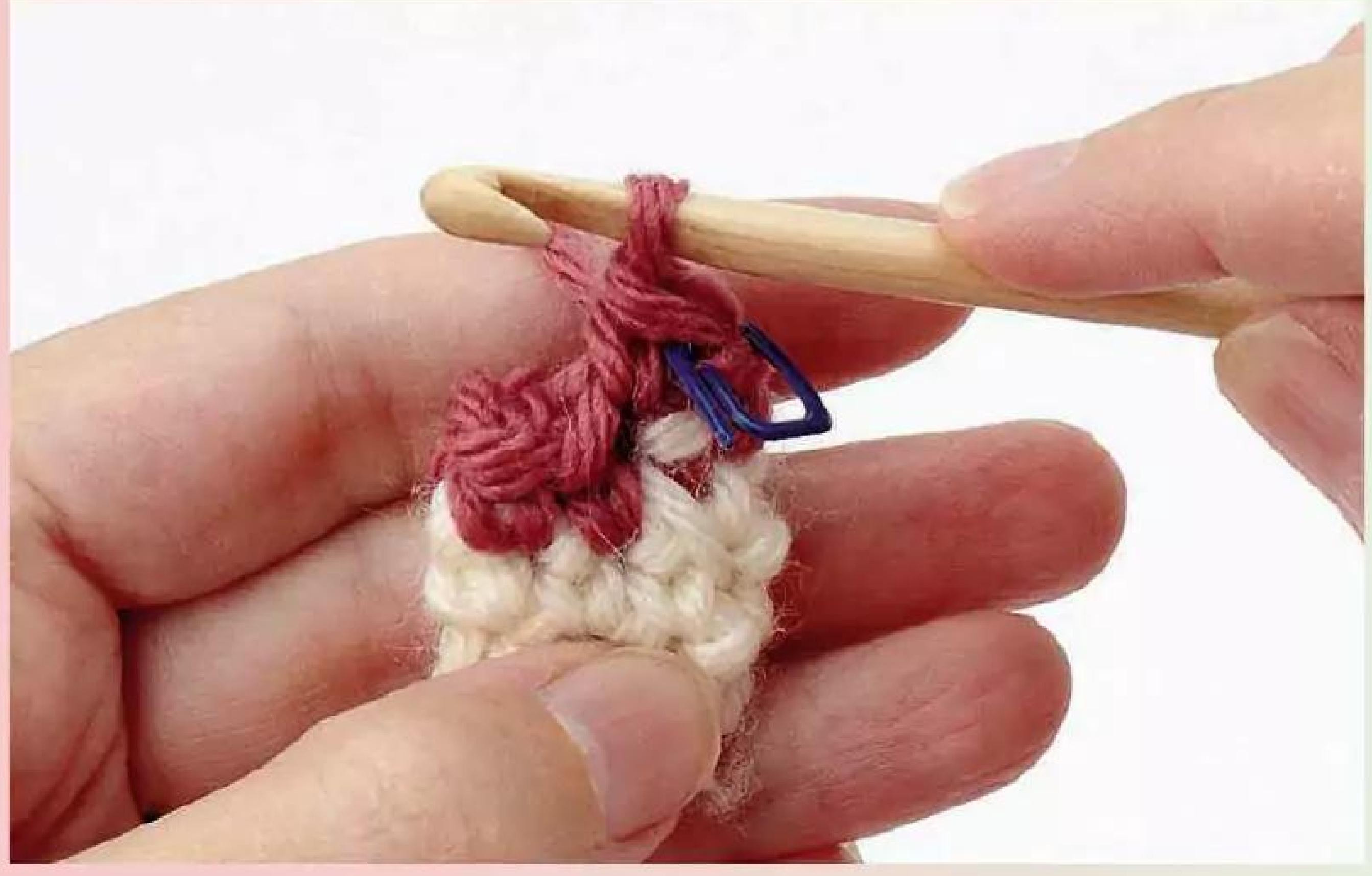
1 If your amigurumi toy has stripes, your pattern will ask you to change colour. Always do this on the last yrh of the last stitch of the round in the previous colour.



2 Work the first stitch of the new round in the new colour and place the stitch marker in this first stitch.



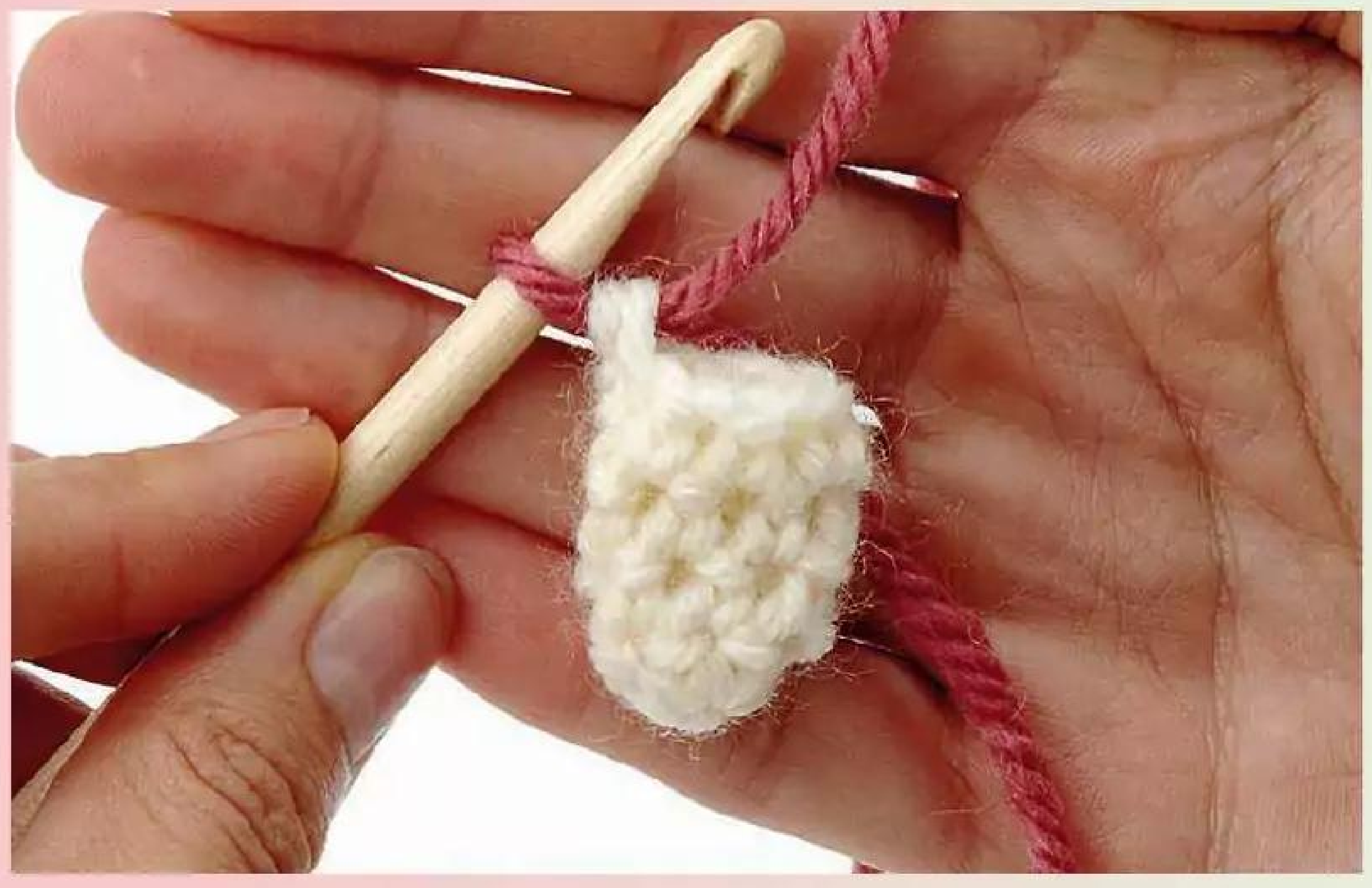
3 Work a round of double crochet stitches until you've worked the last stitch of the round. The next stitch you'll want to work into will have the stitch marker in it.



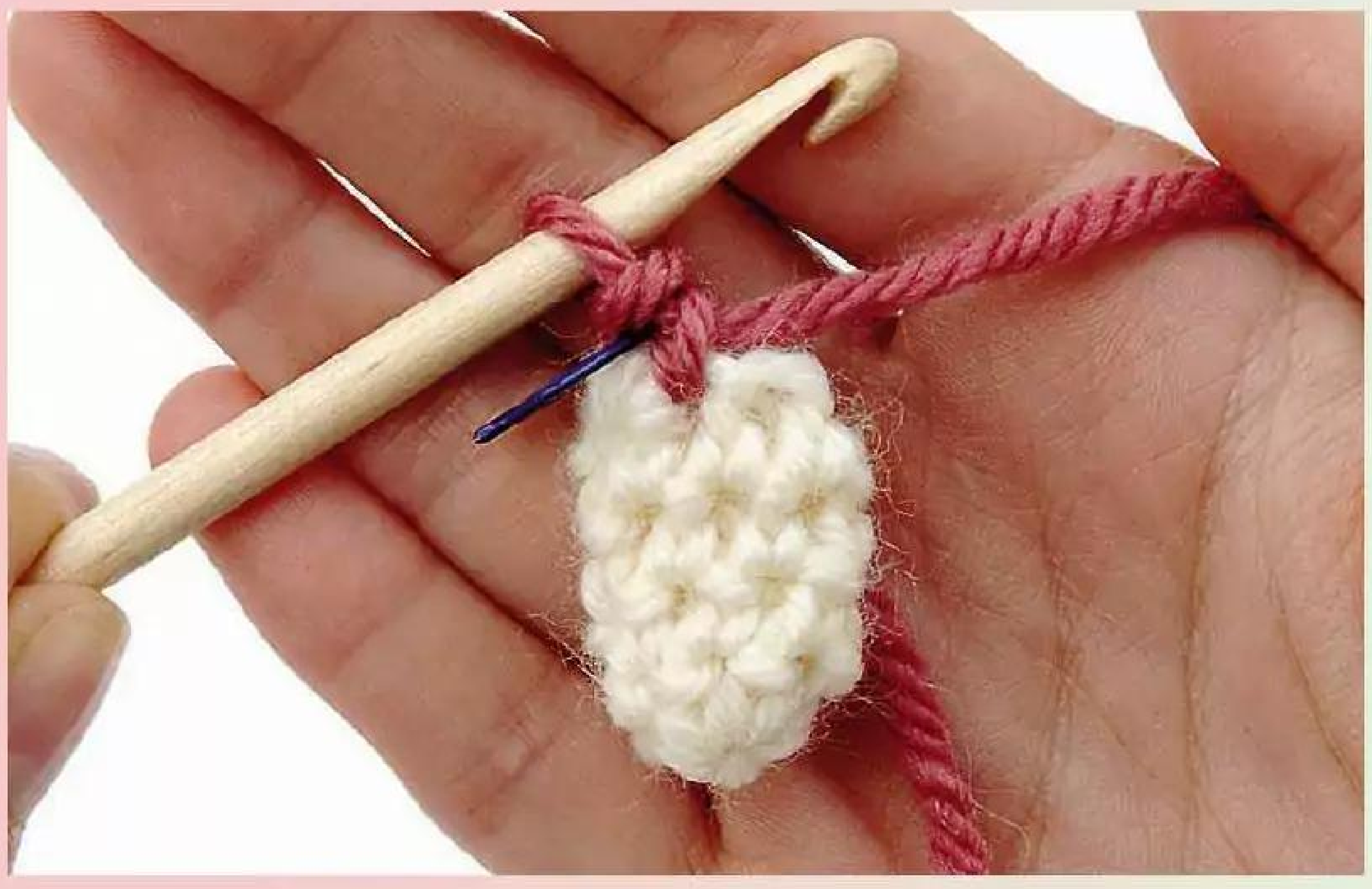
4 You'll need to remove the marker, work the first stitch of the new round and then replace the stitch marker in this first stitch, to mark the start of the round again.

LEFT-HAND

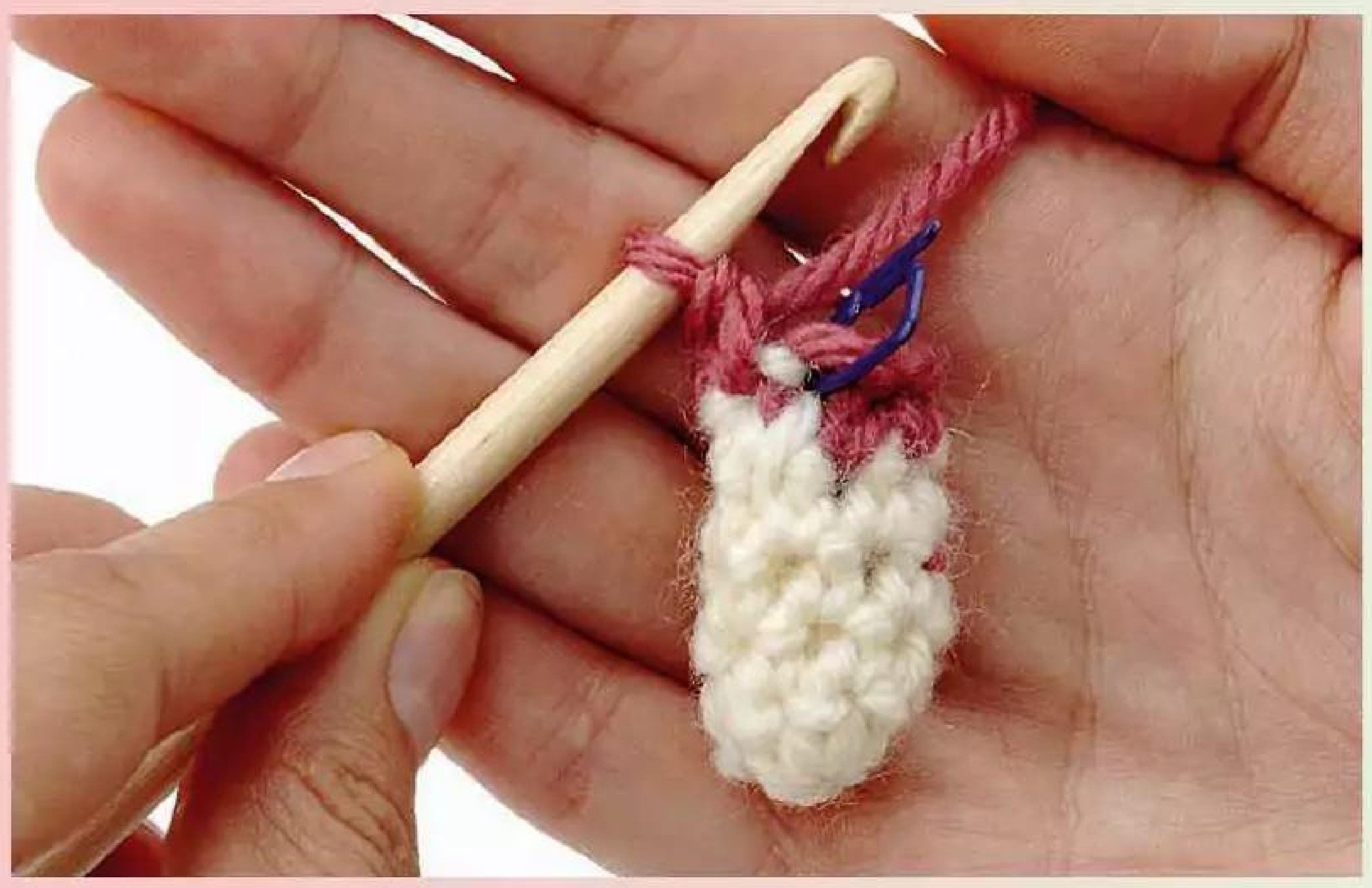
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to change colour and use stitch markers...



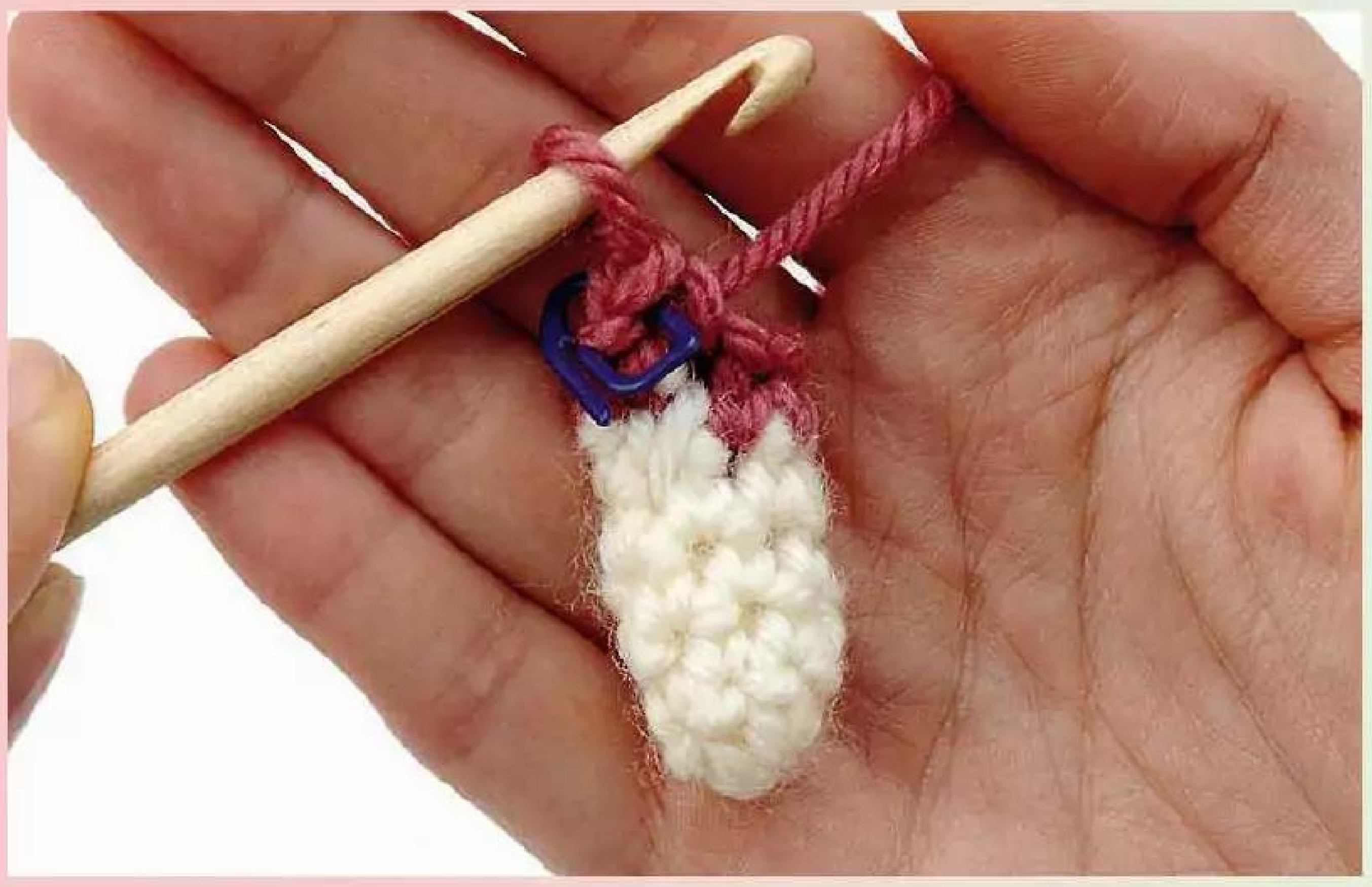
1 If your amigurumi toy has stripes, your pattern will ask you to change colour. Always do this on the last yrh of the last stitch of the round in the previous colour.



2 Work the first stitch of the new round in the new colour and place the stitch marker in this first stitch.



3 Work a round of double crochet stitches until you've worked the last stitch of the round. The next stitch you'll want to work into will have the stitch marker in it.



4 You'll need to remove the marker, work the first stitch of the new round and then replace the stitch marker in this first stitch, to mark the start of the round again.

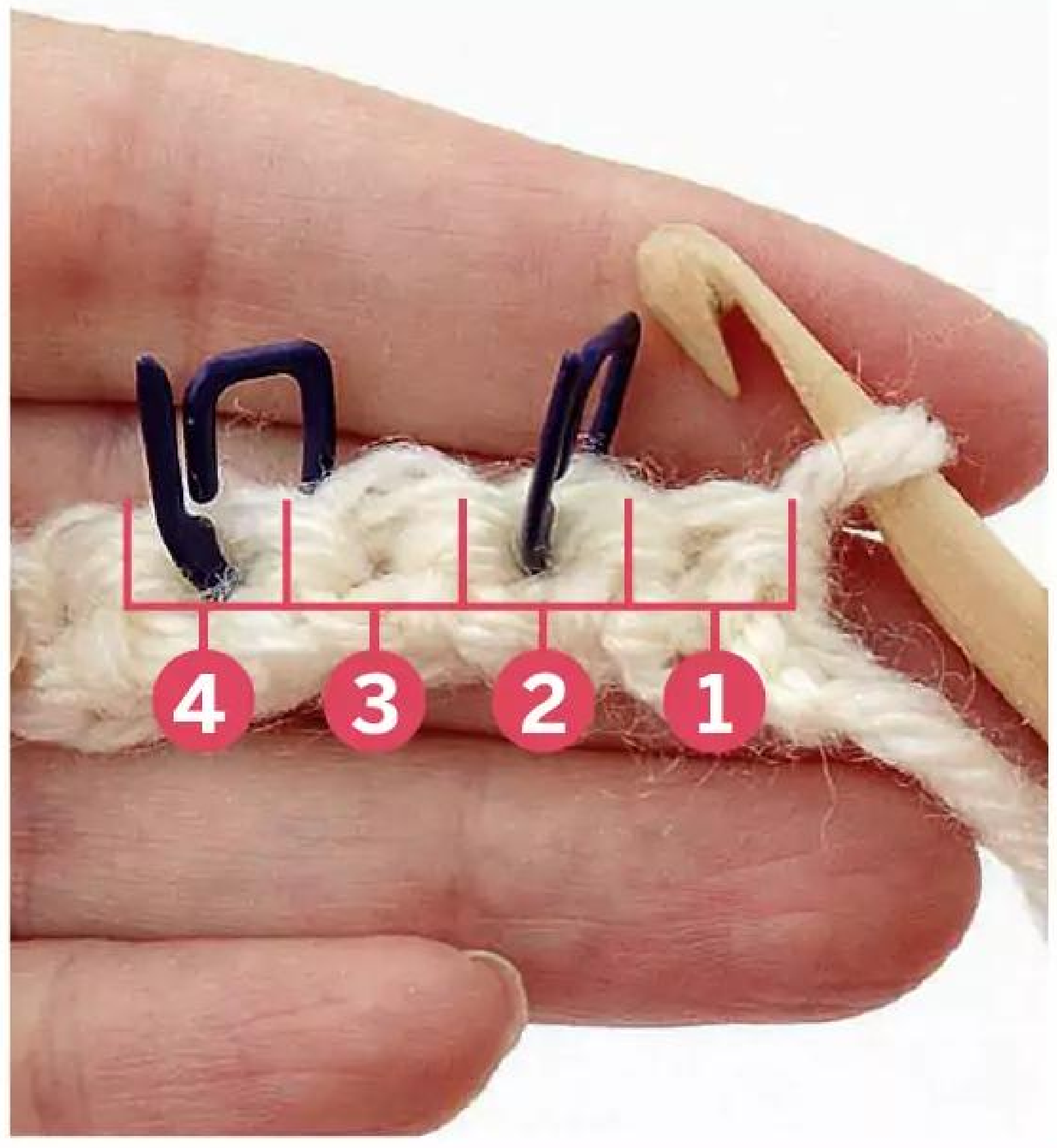
USING STITCH MARKERS

How to keep track of spiral rounds

With any crochet pattern, it's vital that you can count your stitches. One way to make that easier is to use stitch markers. The picture (right) shows a simple row of double crochet stitches, with stitch markers in the second and fourth stitches. The numbers show how to count the stitches in the row.

Stitch markers are also helpful when you're working spirals of stitches in amigurumi. Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of the round to make it clear when you finish a round of the pattern you're using. Move the marker up after every round (see above) to help you keep track of each round.

Another great way to use stitch markers is to mark stitches where you need to make increases or decreases. Try using one colour of marker for working increases and another colour for decreases.



AMIGURUMI EGGS

Put your shaping skills to good use and make these cute moustachioed eggs, designed by **Rachel Hoe**

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Small amounts of DK acrylic yarn in white and any other colour of your choice

HOOK

- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

NOTIONS

- Stitch markers
- Toy stuffing
- Two 4mm black beads per egg
- Small amount of black felt
- Fabric glue or black sewing thread and needle
- White thread and tapestry needle

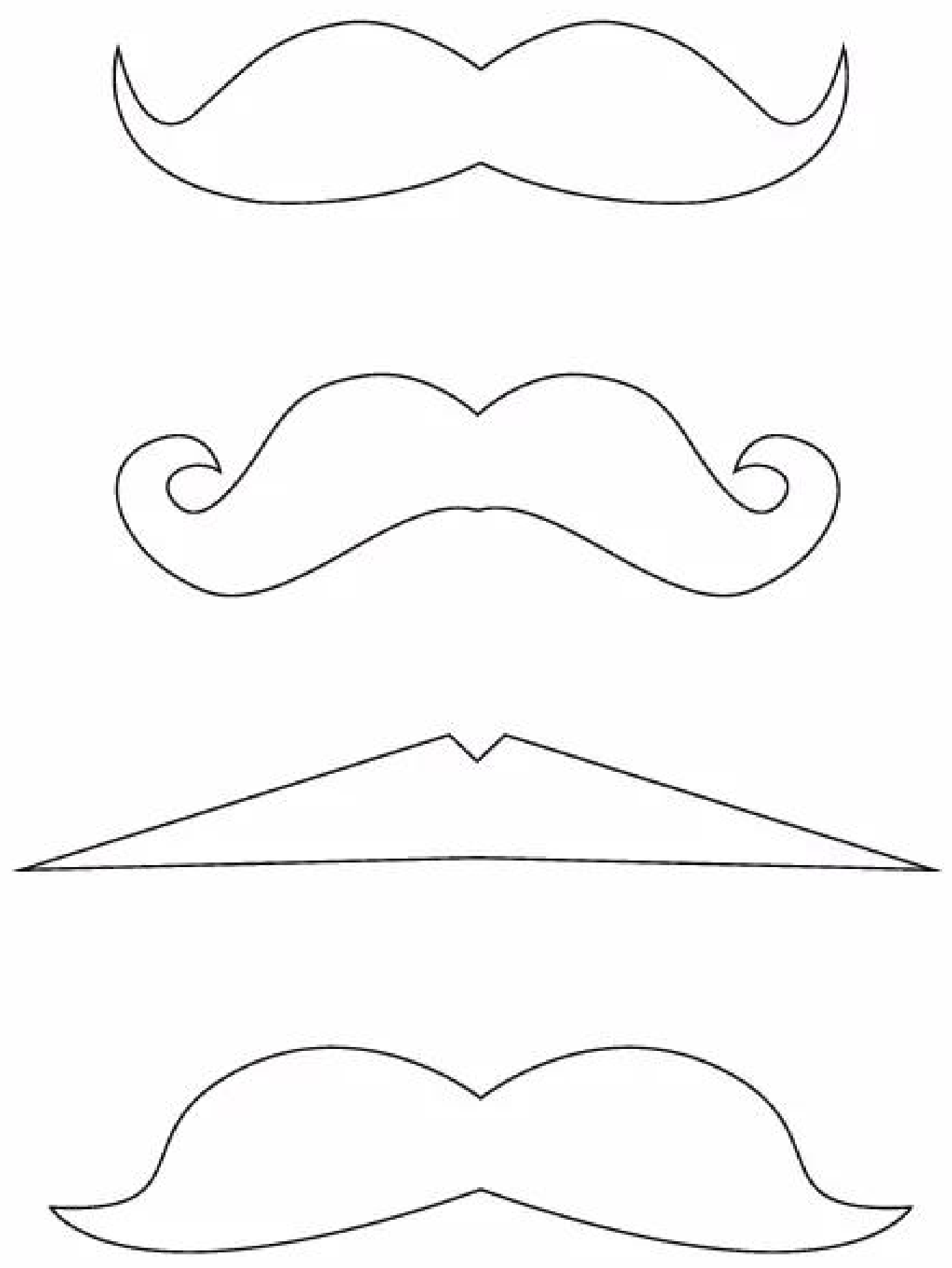
TENSION AND SIZE

Tension is not critical for this project. Each egg measures approx 5cm (2in) in length.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 18

TEMPLATES



Great first amigurumi project

NOTES

The pattern is worked using the amigurumi method. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off the round with a ss. It may help to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round, moving it up as you work.

EGG

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc into the ring. [4 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each stitch around. [8 dc]

Round 3 *Dc in the next st, 2dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [12 dc]

Round 4 *Dc in the next 2 sts, 2dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [16 dc]

Round 5 *Dc in the next 3 sts, 2dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [20 dc]

Round 6 *Dc in the next 4 sts, 2dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [24 dc]

Rounds 7-8 Dc in each dc around.

Rounds 9-14 Change yarn to your colour choice, dc in each dc around.

Part stuff egg with toy stuffing.

Round 15 *Dc2tog, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 16 *Dc2tog, dc in the next dc; repeat from * around. [12 sts]

Stuff egg firmly with toy stuffing before closing with the next round.

Round 17 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Using white thread and tapestry needle, sew the black beads in place after Round 7, leaving 4 stitches spacing between each bead.

Using the moustache templates provided (see opposite), choose the moustache design that you prefer.

Trace the shape onto a piece of paper, cut it out, pin it against a piece of black felt and cut out the shape.

Lastly, glue or sew the black felt moustache onto your crocheted egg.

PERFECT FINISH

Give your items the perfect finishing touch with our guide to blocking, sewing up, then washing and caring for your creations to make sure they look great for years to come

ALL ABOUT... FINISHING

How to finish your crochet item in style, with buttons, tassels, pompoms, fringing, edgings and practically perfect seams.

You may have fastened off and even woven in the ends, but it's the next stages that really affect the finished look of your crocheted item. In this chapter, we'll explain how to sew up and safely wash your item, introduce you to blocking, and show you how to add a final decorative flourish to your creations.

Some crocheters love the 'finishing' stage, others loathe it. Whichever camp you naturally fall into, there are some finishing techniques that you can't avoid, so you may as well learn to enjoy them! Sewing up is one of these, but because there are so many different ways to do this you can choose the one you like the most. Washing and blocking is another little job that can be annoying, but it makes such a big difference to the look of lacy stitches and the fit of garments, your work will suffer if you avoid it.

For a finish that's much more fun, try an edging. Shawls and scarves will often include a stylish edging, such as a dangly tassel or a delicate fringe. Make these in matching or contrasting yarn colours to add an extra dimension to your item – see page 128 for more on these.

Of course, finishing touches can be functional, too. A different sort of edging could be a button band added to a cardigan. Make sure you work it so that the button band stitches are perpendicular to the stitches in the main fabric, so the stretch and pull of the fabric will be in different directions. This adds structure and support to the garment, and helps to prevent droop.

Buttons are another fun way to add character to your makes. In fact, one of the best parts of crocheting is having a reason to collect gorgeous buttons! They come in all shapes and sizes, and they can add a couture touch to accessories as well as being a functional fastening on garments.

For a more eye-catching finishing touch, try adding a pompom or two, or sew on beads or sequins. There are so many variations available now you'll find something you love. Decorating your makes can be so much fun!

THE RUNDOWN

FINAL FLOURISH

There are plenty of fun little extras you can add to your finished crochet piece to personalise the look. Whether it's a lacy edging, a huge button, a pair of pompoms, a silky tassel or a curvy fringing, they're easy to add and you'll find they're slightly addictive!

WASHING AND BLOCKING

They may not be exciting, but they are important. We'll show you how to wash your crochet makes safely on page 130. We'll also explain how blocking and pinning out your pieces will make sure the stitches look great and the piece matches the finished size you want.

DECORATIVE SEAMS

Not all seaming techniques were created equal. We'll show you four methods on page 129 – they'll all neatly attach two pieces of fabric together, but the double crochet seam

FINISH LIKE A PRO

We'll show you how to do these vital processes

WASHING

Crochet items, like any fabric, will need to be washed at times. Refer to the yarn's ball band for care information. Always dry your makes flat.

BLOCKING

To achieve flat, even stitches, block your make using the dry, wet or steam method. Each method involves pinning out to the measurements you want.

Russell Hobbs

PRESSING

Some yarns, especially cotton ones, need pressing to get an even finish. Protect your crochet with a dry cloth and gently press the iron onto the fabric.

SEAMING

Sewing up will turn a few crochet pieces into an item you can use. Pin together your pieces, then crochet a seam or sew the seam with a large-eyed, blunt needle.

will also create a decorative effect on your fabric. There are many other methods of joining your crochet, but these are the most popular ones to start with.

BUTTON BANDS

The most common edging is a button band. Start by joining the yarn to the bottom corner, using the technique on page , then work stitches along the front of each side. The bands are often worked in double crochet so they're dense and firm. On one of the bands, you could work buttonholes (we'll show you how on p124). Then simply sew buttons onto the button band on the other side.

NECKBANDS

Neckbands are similar to button bands and you may be asked to work them together in one long edging, all the way around a cardigan. On a jumper, the neckband will be curved rather than straight and they may be crocheted in rows or rounds. You might also be instructed to use a hook size that's larger than the main piece, so the jumper will easily fit over your head.

OTHER EDGINGS

Some edgings are crocheted separately and then sewn on. You can also crochet an edging in rows perpendicular to your main fabric, catching one stitch as you work so the edging joins to the fabric as you go. You can buy whole books of edging patterns, so don't be afraid to add an edging to a plain project – you're sure to find one you like.

FINISH LIKE A PRO

Add these extras to personalise your make

POMPOMS

Add a fun touch to any project with a fluffy pompom. They're easy to make with a special gadget or even two cardboard rings, and great for using up leftover yarn. Find a handy tutorial at www.gathered.how.

BUTTONS

Whether they're functional or decorative, make a style statement with buttons. Choose your buttons before you crochet to check they work with your pattern, and avoid buttons with sharp edges.

FRINGING

There's no need for knots or sewing, so you can attach lengths of fringing quickly and easily. It will add a finishing flourish to scarves, blankets and shawls. Try trimming the fringe into interesting shapes.

TASSELS

From clothing to homewares, tassels are a simple way to add a stylish touch to many projects, from bags to cushions. All you need is some spare yarn, a pair of scissors and a piece of cardboard.

Try out all the ideas in this chapter and you'll be well prepared to tackle any crochet pattern

Three to try!
DESIGN IDEAS

Get your hook at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Crochet* magazine! To get the patterns from the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues by downloading the *Simply Crochet* app in the App Store, or to view on an Android device or a computer, find us on www.zinio.com/gb/simply-crochet-m6370. Every purchase is stored permanently in your magazine library. Once the magazine has been downloaded an internet connection is not required, so you craft whenever you like.

1 Pink lady
BEGINNER

This top from issue 29 of *Simply Crochet* includes simple edging around the neckband, hem and armholes, and an unusual neckline detail.

2 In the bag!
IMPROVER

This retro little number with ombré fringing is from issue 87 of *Simply Crochet*. Make yourself a brand new bag by Martine de Regt – the simple bag is made from a dc and htr base with fringing hooked into it at the end.

3 Stay trim
EXPERT

Issue 86 of *Simply Crochet* includes this beautiful basket, designed by Sara Huntington. Decorated with all sorts of pompoms, tassels and trims, it will cheer up your living room and take care of your yarn stash, too!

BUTTONHOLES

Here's how to work simple buttonholes and button loops

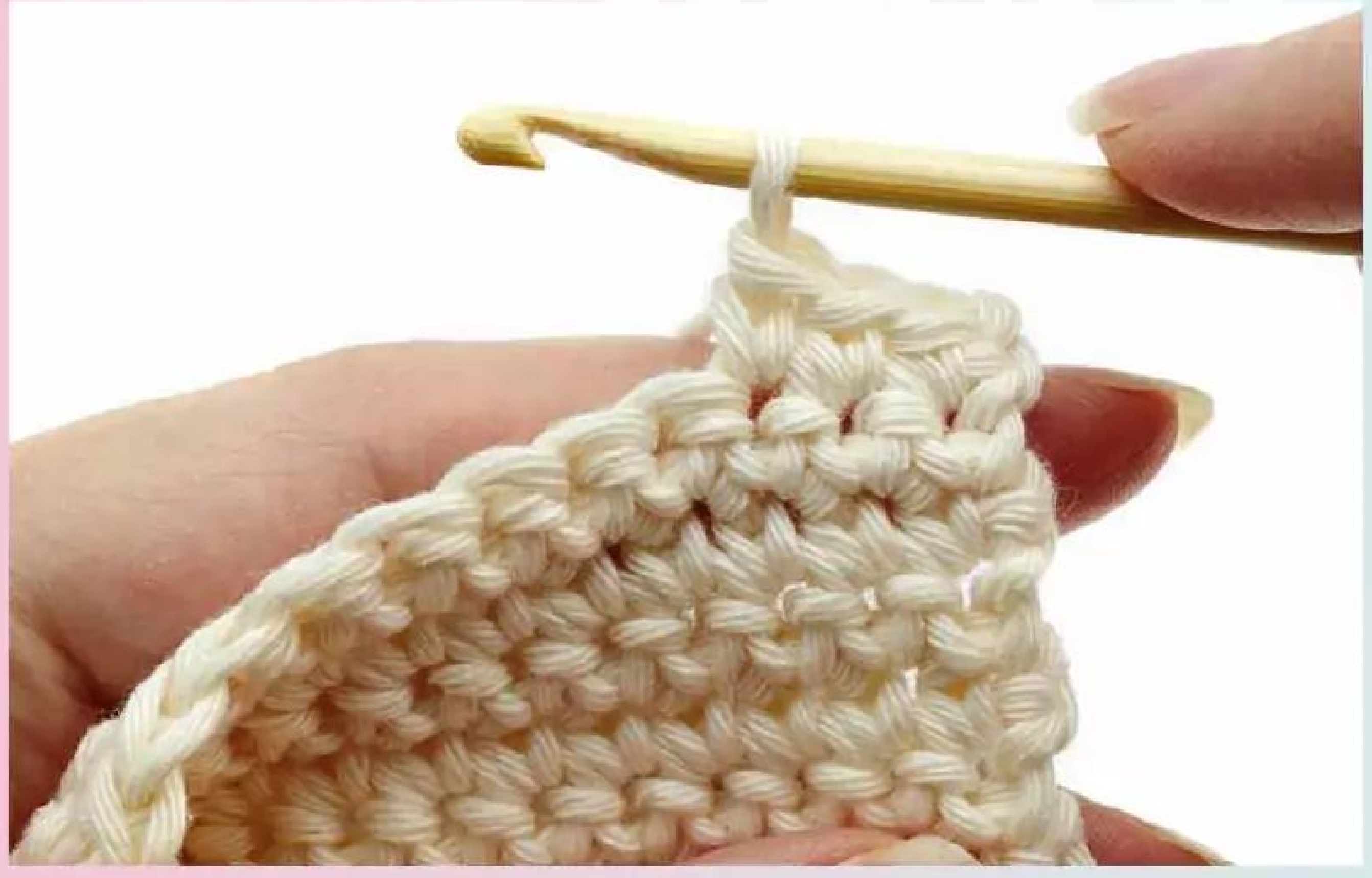
Once you know how, you can add buttonholes or loops to any project. A pattern should tell you where and how to work a buttonhole, often as part of an edging or button band on cardigan fronts, usually worked over three to six stitches.

We've explained below how to work a 3-stitch horizontal buttonhole in double crochet rows. It's best to place these about 2cm (1in) from the edge of your fabric. You can use the same principles to work buttonholes in other stitches.

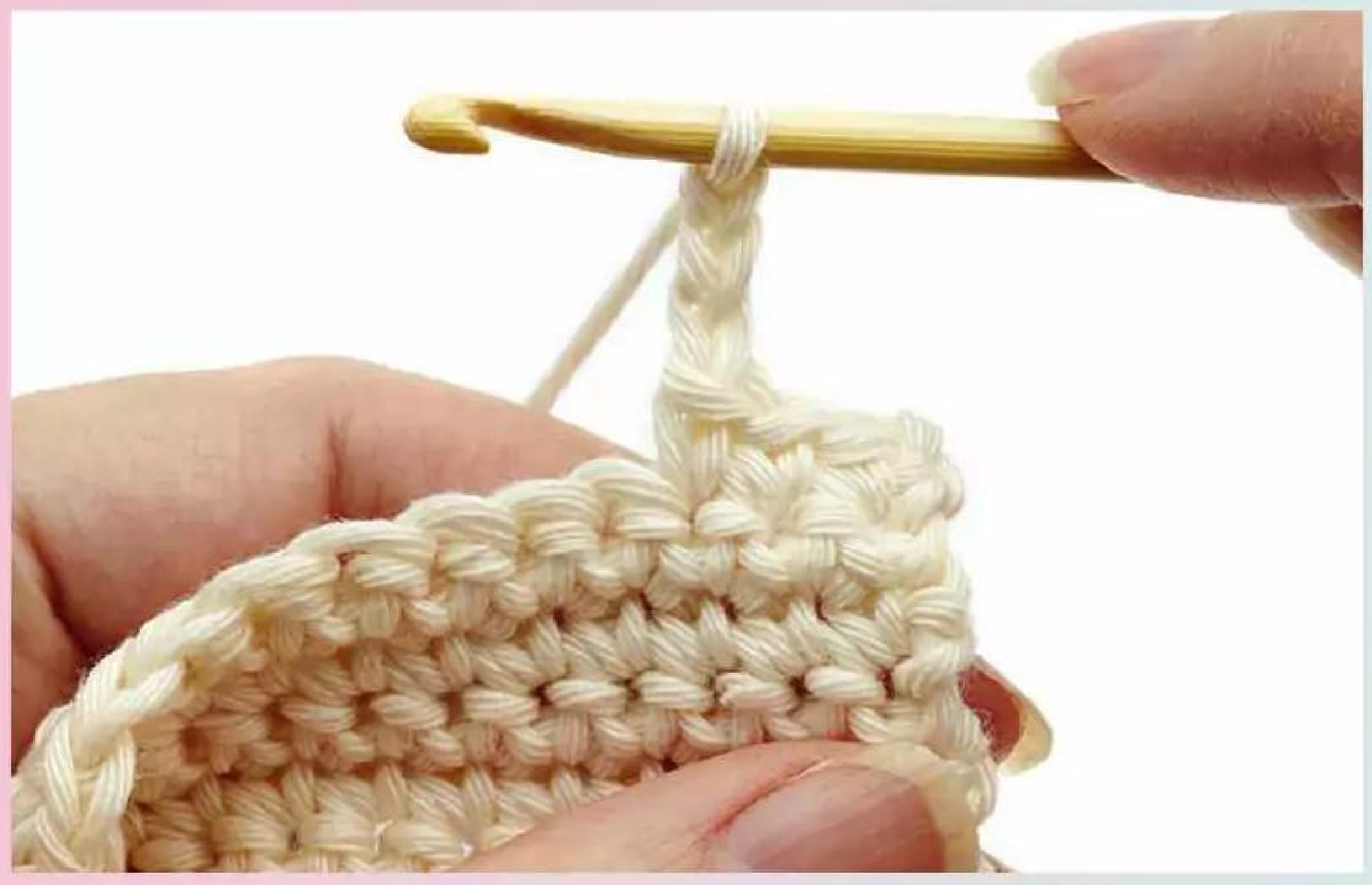
To check your buttons are the right size for the buttonhole, make a swatch and pass the button through the hole – aim for a fairly snug fit so the buttons don't undo by themselves. To change the buttonhole size, you can change the number of chains worked and stitches missed, but then you may need to make other pattern changes. It's often easier to just change the buttons instead! With such a wide range available it should be an easy switch.

RIGHT-HAND

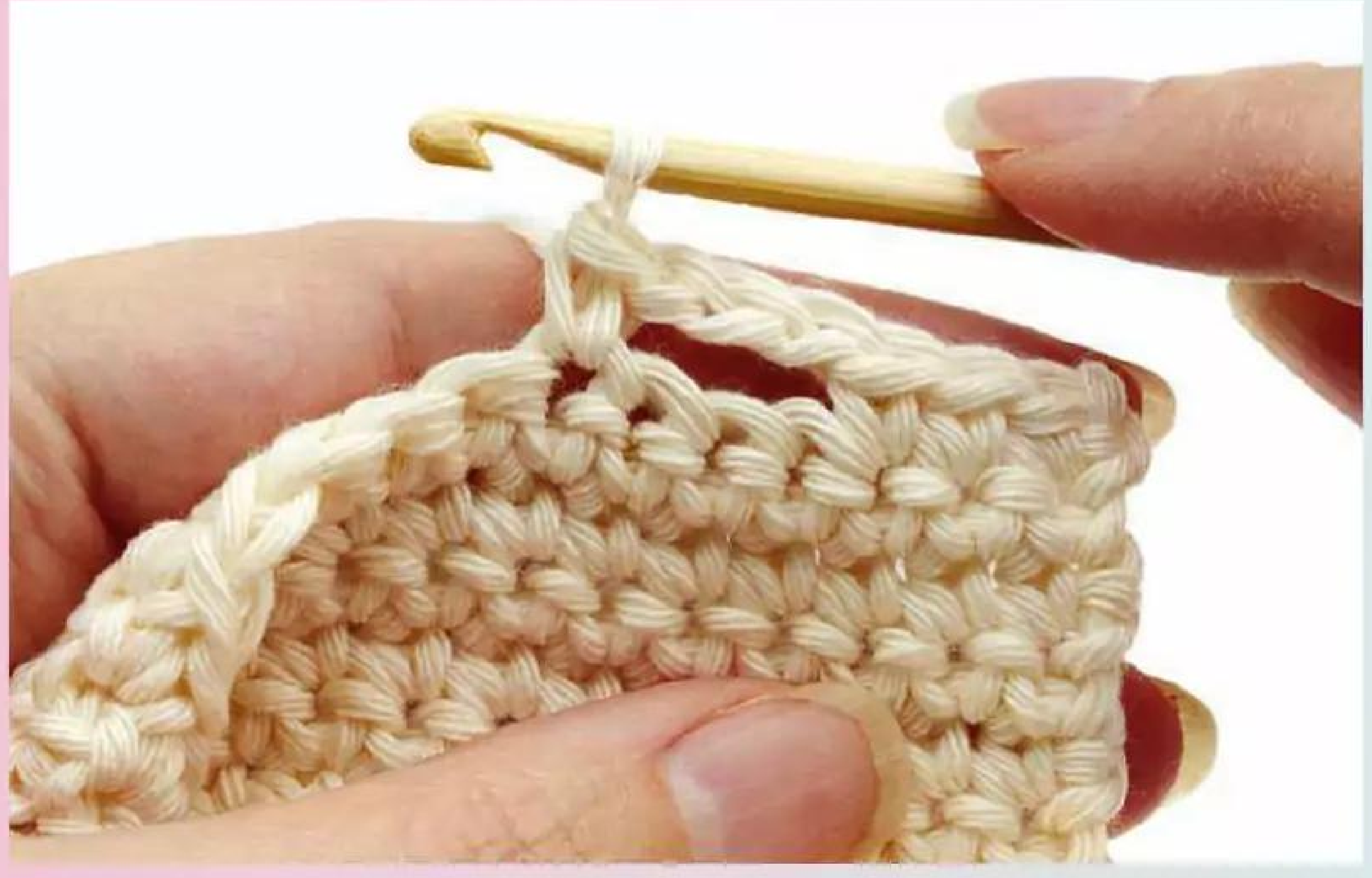
If you're right-handed, follow these steps to make a double crochet buttonhole...



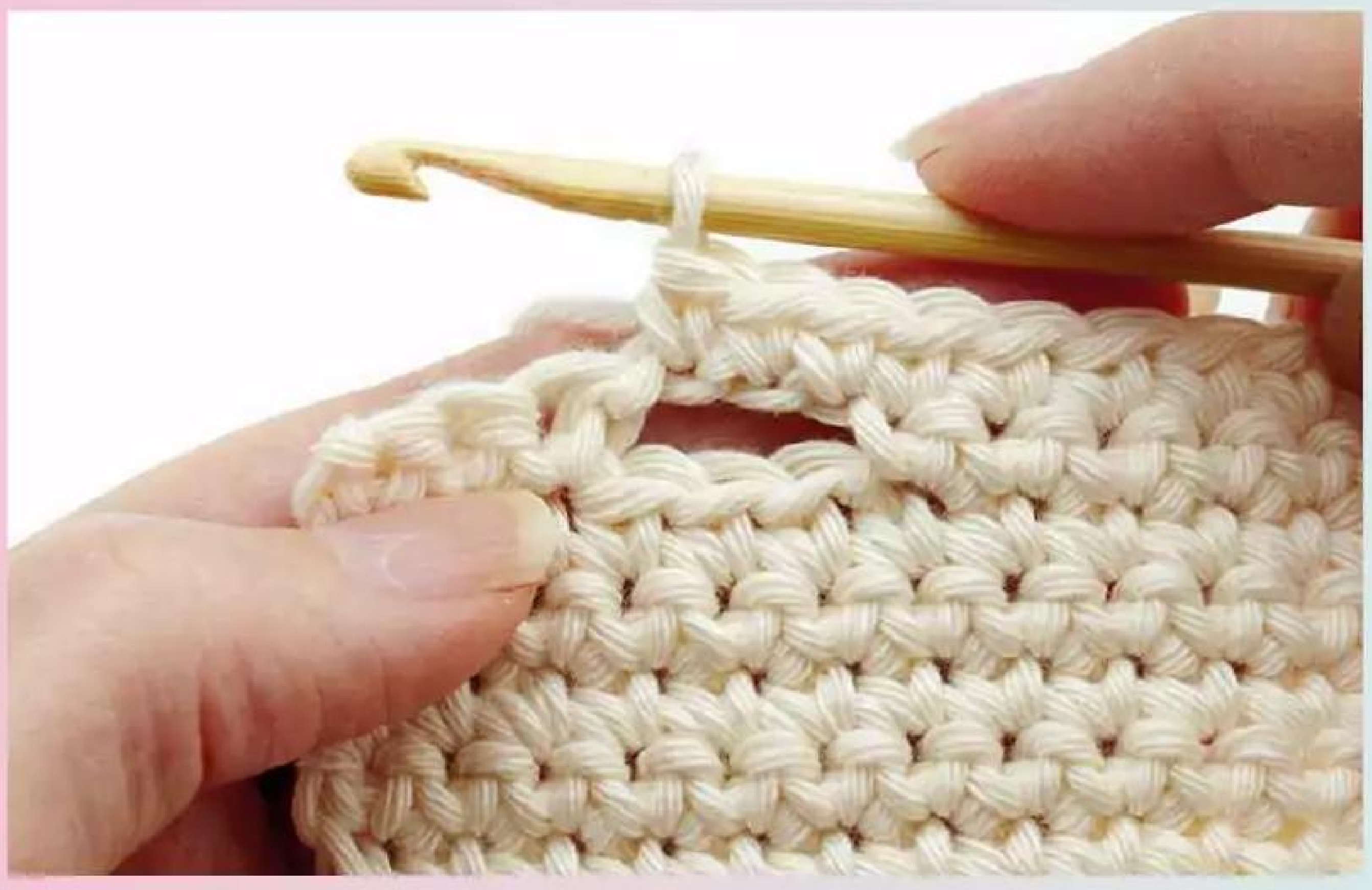
1 Work to the point where you want to create the buttonhole. To practise on a swatch, we suggest that you work the first three stitches as above in double crochet as usual and then place the buttonhole.



2 Don't work into the next stitch. Instead, make a chain length, which needs to be slightly shorter than the width of your button. To practise on a swatch, try 3ch.



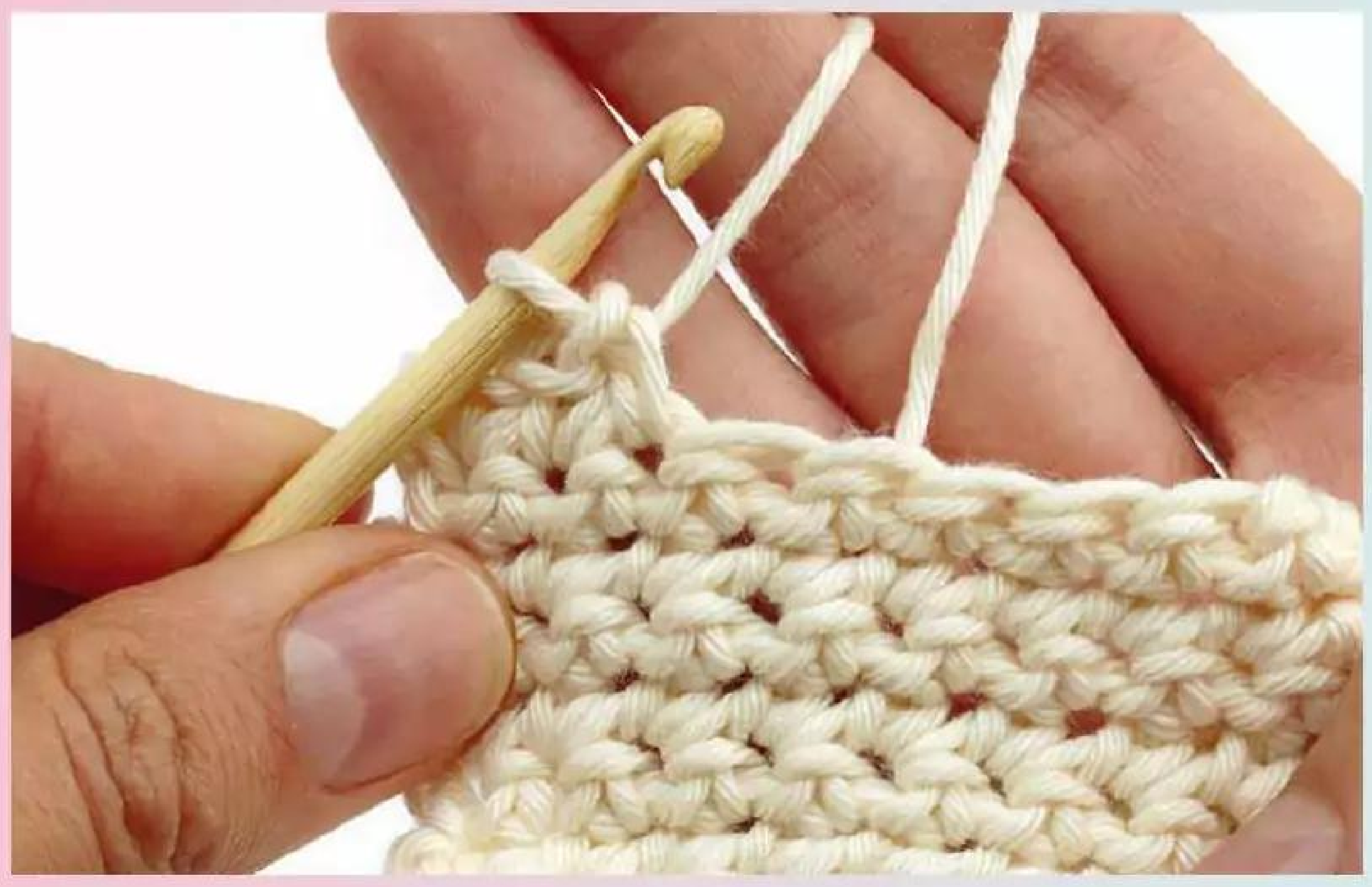
3 Now skip the same number of stitches as your chain length. If you made 3ch, skip 3 stitches on the row below. Work a dc stitch into the next stitch and continue working the stitches in the row as usual.



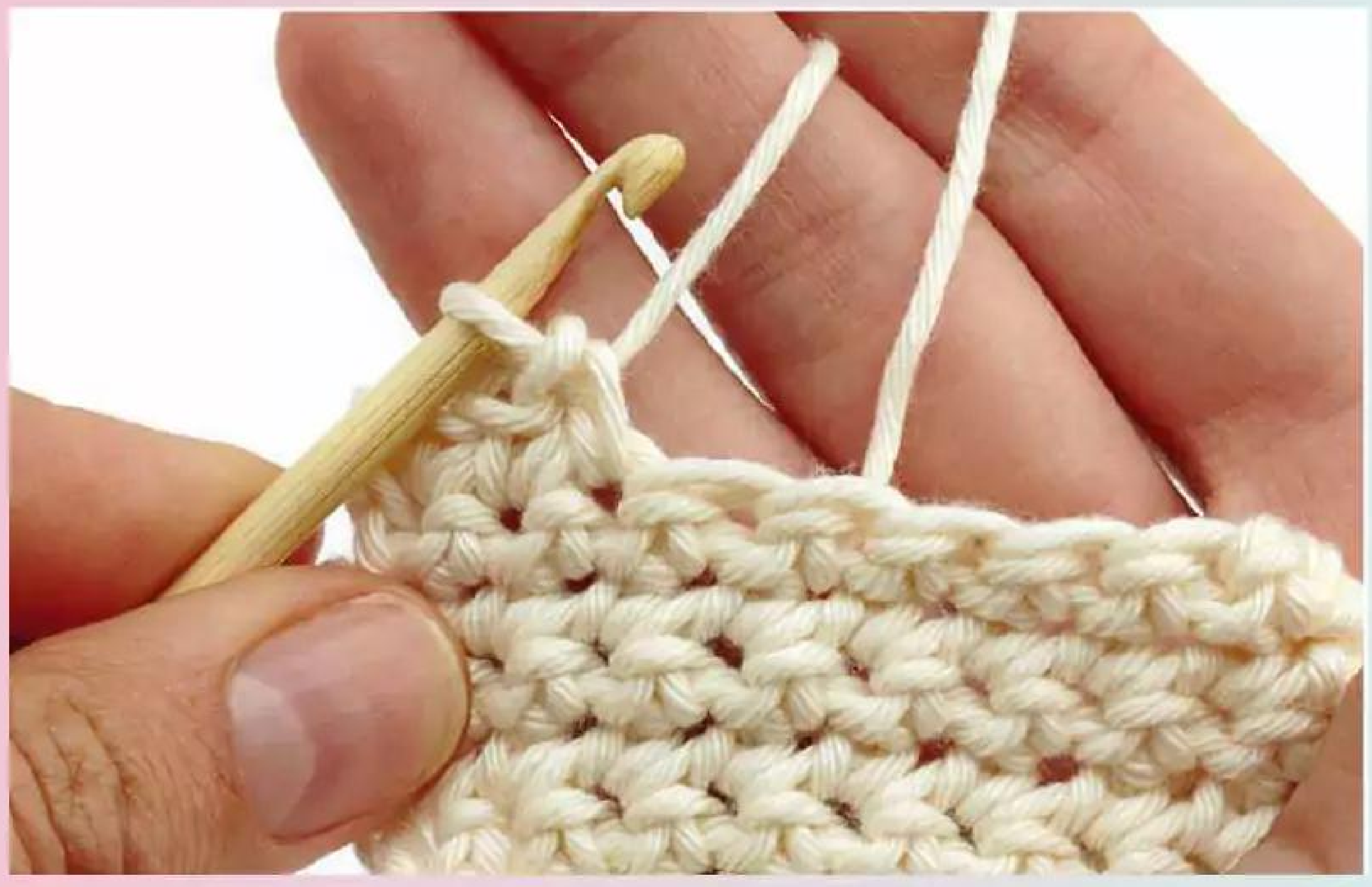
4 On the next row, when you return to the chain length, just work a stitch into each chain. Alternatively, treat the buttonhole as a chain space and work the stitches into the space. See which look you prefer.

LEFT-HAND

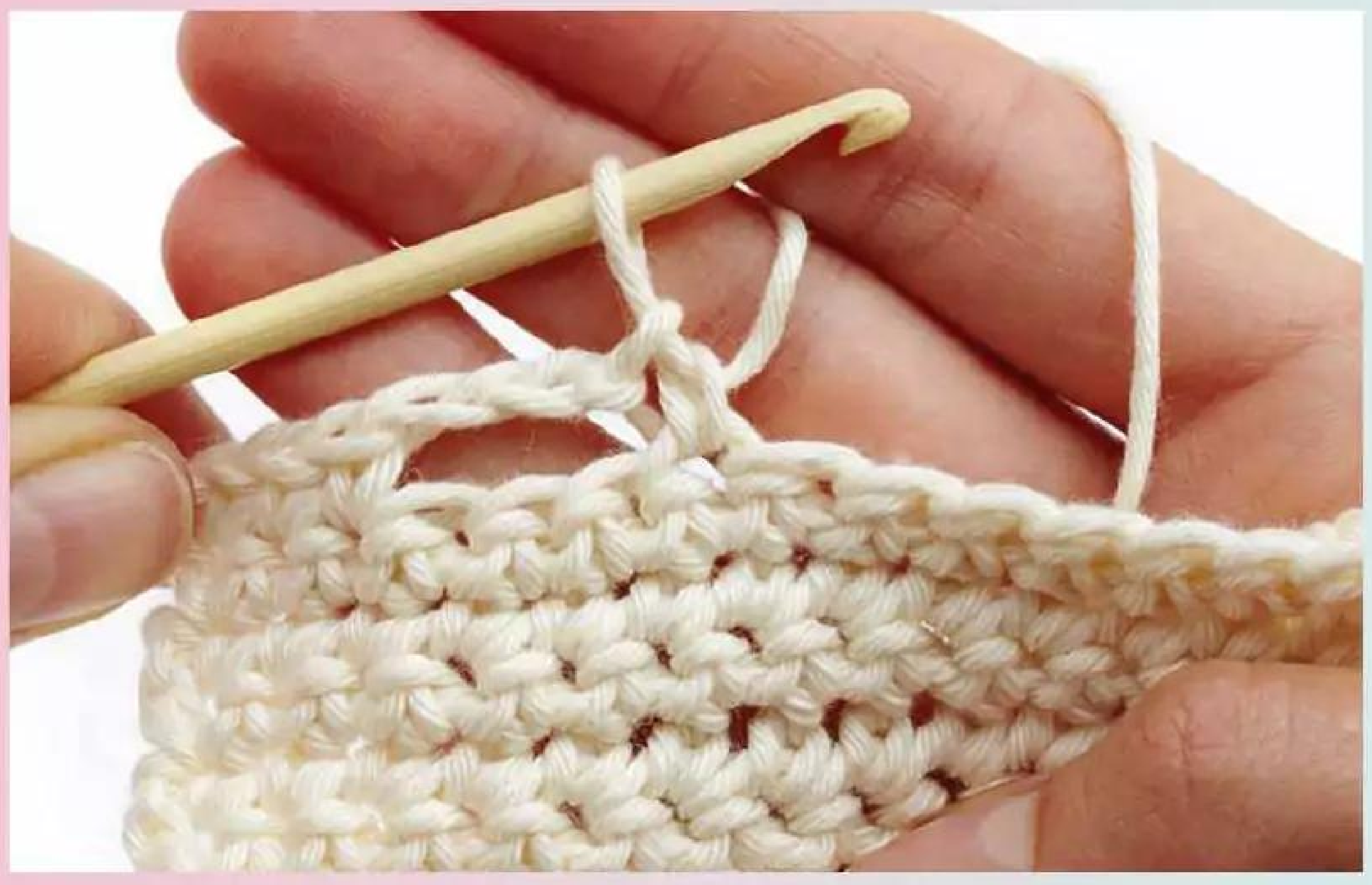
If you're left-handed, follow these steps to make a double crochet buttonhole…



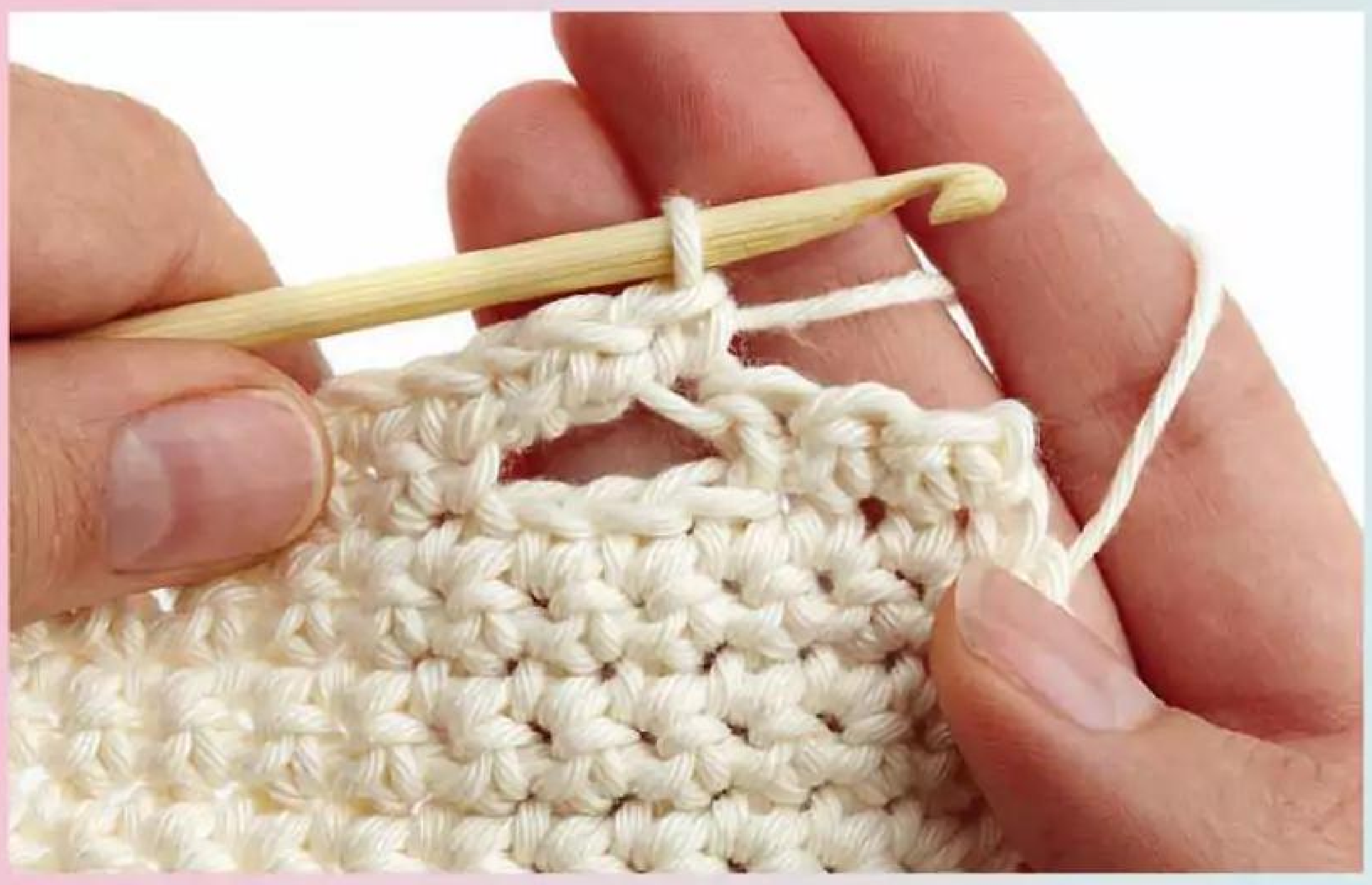
1 Work to the point where you want to create the buttonhole. To practise on a swatch, we suggest that you work the first three stitches as above in double crochet as usual and then place the buttonhole.



2 Don't work into the next stitch. Instead, make a chain length, which needs to be slightly shorter than the width of your button. To practise on a swatch, try 3ch.



3 Now skip the same number of stitches as your chain length. If you made 3ch, skip 3 stitches on the row below. Work a dc stitch into the next stitch and continue working the stitches in the row as usual.



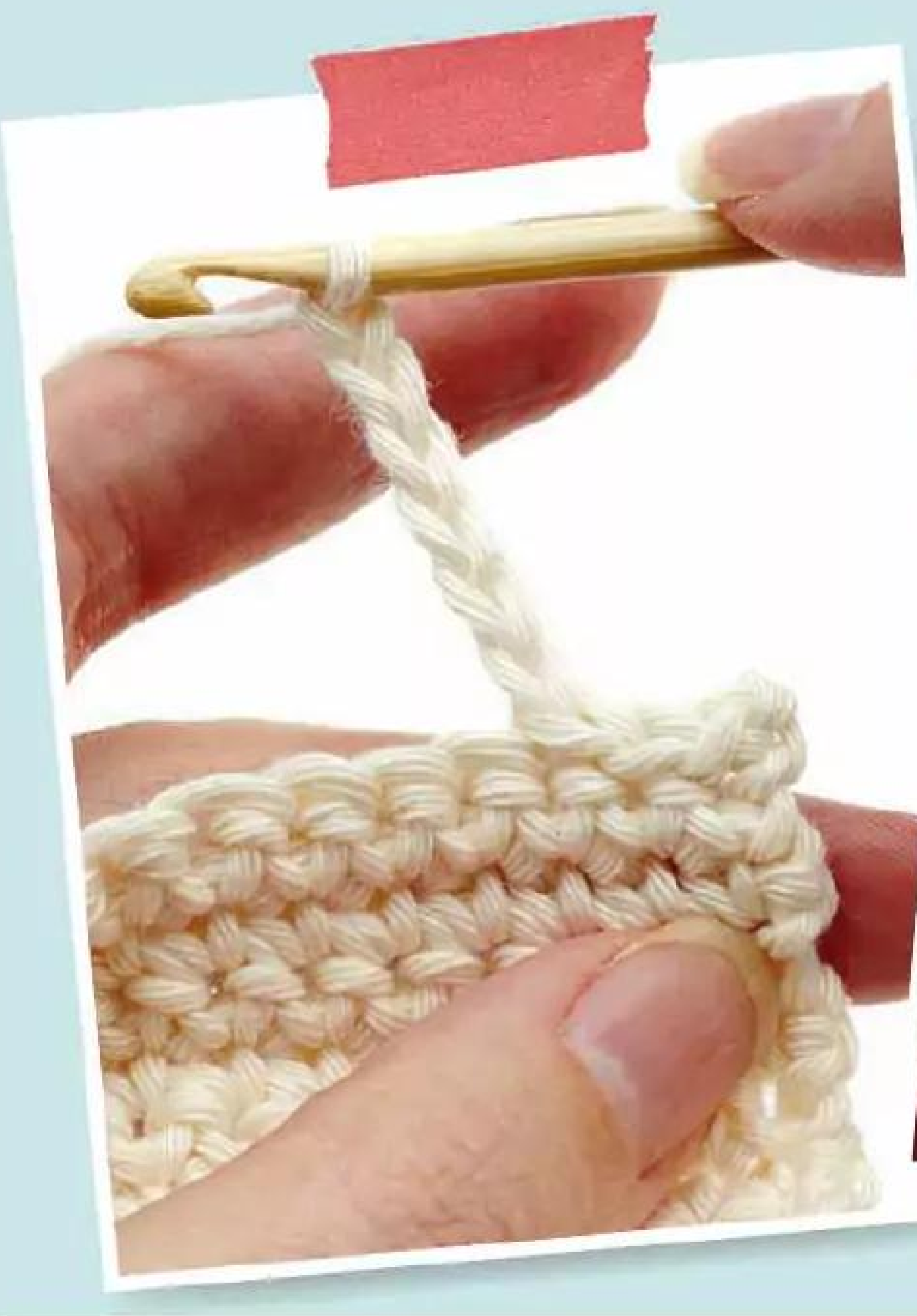
4 On the next row, when you return to the chain length, just work a stitch into each chain. Alternatively, treat the buttonhole as a chain space and work the stitches into the space. See which look you prefer.

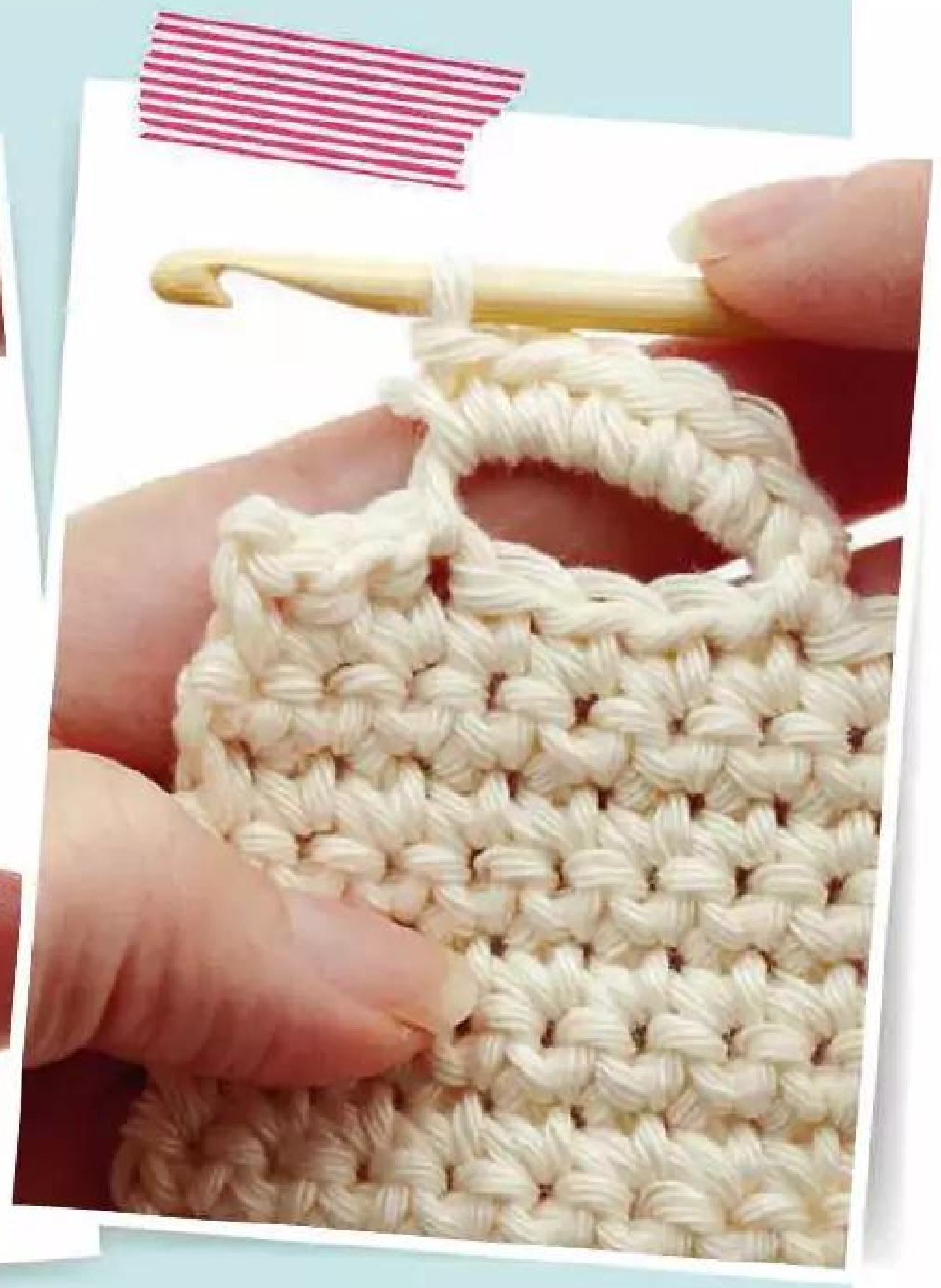
BUTTON LOOPS

A fun alternative to buttonholes…

Worked right at the edge of your fabric, button loops are great for chunkier yarns or when you're making coats or bags.

To work a 6ch button loop, work a slip stitch into each stitch along the fabric edge, to the point where you want a loop. Instead of working into the next stitch, make 6ch (see right). Skip half the number of stitches that are in your chain length, so for 6ch, skip 3 sts. Work a slip stitch into the next st. Turn. Work 6 double crochet sts into the button loop chain space (see far right). Slip stitch into the stitch at the base of the chain length. Fasten off.





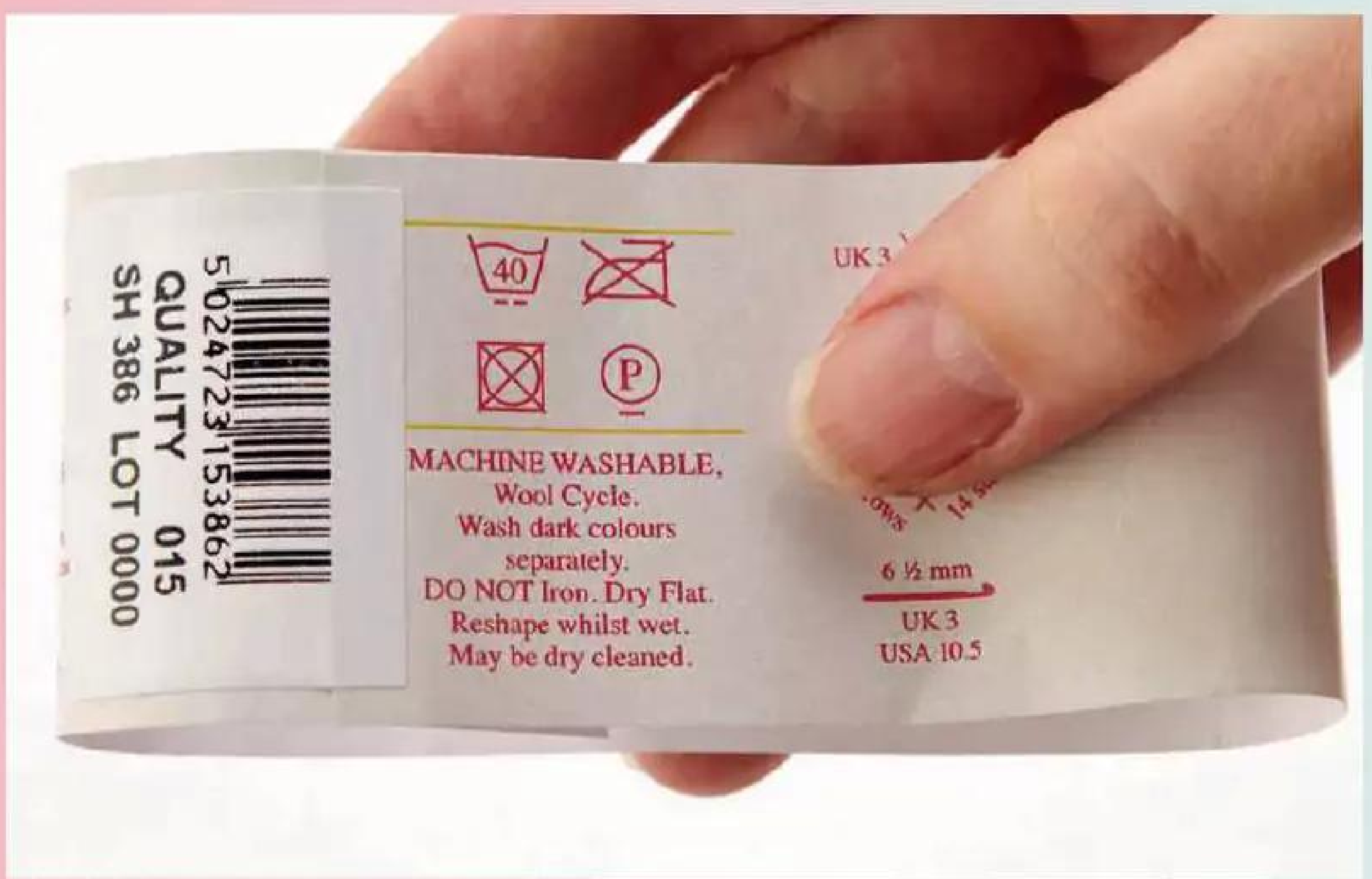
WASHING

Treat your makes with love and they'll last for years to come

Like any fabric item, your makes will need washing from time to time to keep them looking good. This might seem a bit scary if you haven't done it before, but you just need to take a few simple precautions to ensure you get a perfect result.

When washing any item, you'd usually refer to the label for guidance. With your crochet, you need to refer to the yarn's ball band for care information, so keep it safe. The yarn's ball band should tell you what temperature to wash your item at and whether or not it can go in the machine. See our guide below for the best way to wash your makes.

Always dry your makes flat – never hang up your crochet fabric – because the weight of the garment will stretch out the yarn. Once dry, store your crochet item folded, don't hang it up. Some items, such as garments or lace shawls, will need to go through the blocking process after every wash to help them keep their shape. See overleaf for our guide to this. Remember, if you treat your crochet makes with love, they'll last for years to come.



1 The ball band on the yarn you've used should tell you the best way to wash the item you've made with that yarn. If you've used more than one yarn on an item, choose the gentlest washing method.

2 If your item needs to be handwashed, soak it for 30 minutes or so in a bowl of lukewarm water with a mild detergent. Don't rub or you may felt the piece.

3 Once washed, lay the item on top of a towel and roll up the towel to squeeze out the excess moisture (do not wring!).

4 Gently pull the item back into shape and leave it to dry somewhere flat, such as on a board or a folded blanket covered with towels.

BLOCKING

Make sure your crochet item has a professional finish

Before doing any sewing up, you'll need to block each piece of fabric. Most crochet fabrics naturally lie flat, but it's worth blocking lacy fabrics, motifs and garments to get even stitches.

There are many ways to block crochet fabric but they usually fall into one of three categories: dry, wet or steam. Check the label on your yarn's ball band for advice on how to treat it and so to find out which method will be best. Look at the iron symbol on the band for whether to steam block.

Generally, delicate fibres, lurex and novelty yarns shouldn't be blocked. Most cotton and linen yarns can be wet or steam blocked. Some wool and a variety of other animal-based fibres can be steam or dry blocked. Other fibres (such as angora, mohair, synthetics and wool blends) should be dry blocked.

If you're not sure which method to use, test a swatch of your yarn. The dry blocking method is the gentlest all-rounder to try first and suitable for most fabrics.

1 To wet block, wash the item first (see our guide on p126), pin it out (following the steps on p128) and leave to dry. When the crochet fabric is dry, remove the pins and you'll be ready for seaming.

2 To dry block, don't wash the item first, just pin it out (following the steps opposite), then spritz it with cold water to make it damp and leave it to dry.

3 To steam block, pin out the item without washing. Set your iron to its steam setting, at the temperature advised on the ball band. Hold the iron near the fabric, but don't touch it. Apply steam, moving slowly over the fabric to make it damp. Leave to dry.

4 Some yarns need a press to get an even finish and some ball bands recommend this. To press, place a dry cloth over your crochet to protect it. Gently press the iron onto the fabric, but don't hold it down for too long and don't move the iron while it's held down or the fabric may distort.

PINNING OUT

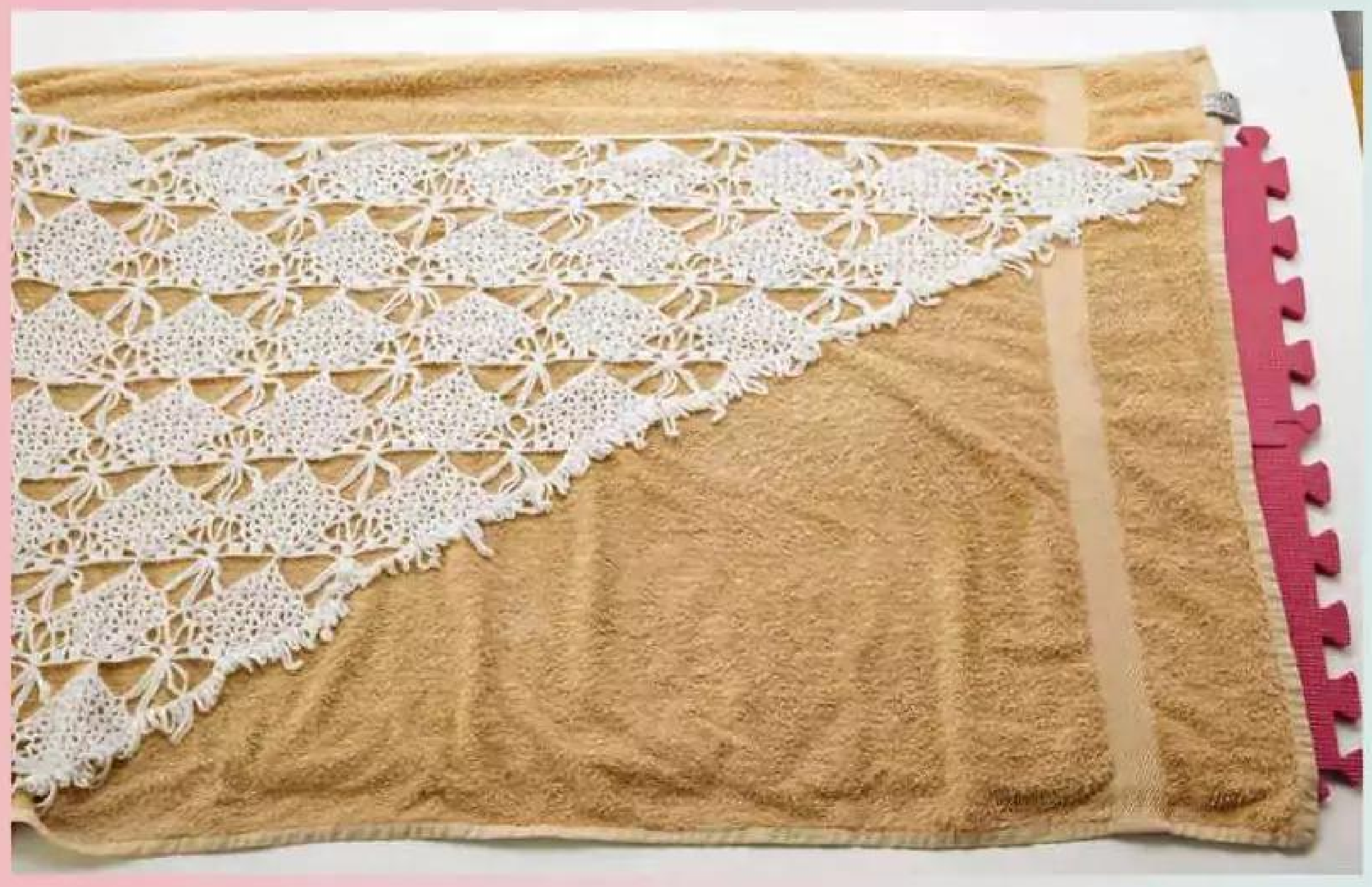
This will make sure your finished item is the right size

Pinning out your finished item is a key part of the blocking process, which will make sure you get a professional finish. See p129 for more about blocking and at what stage you should pin your item.

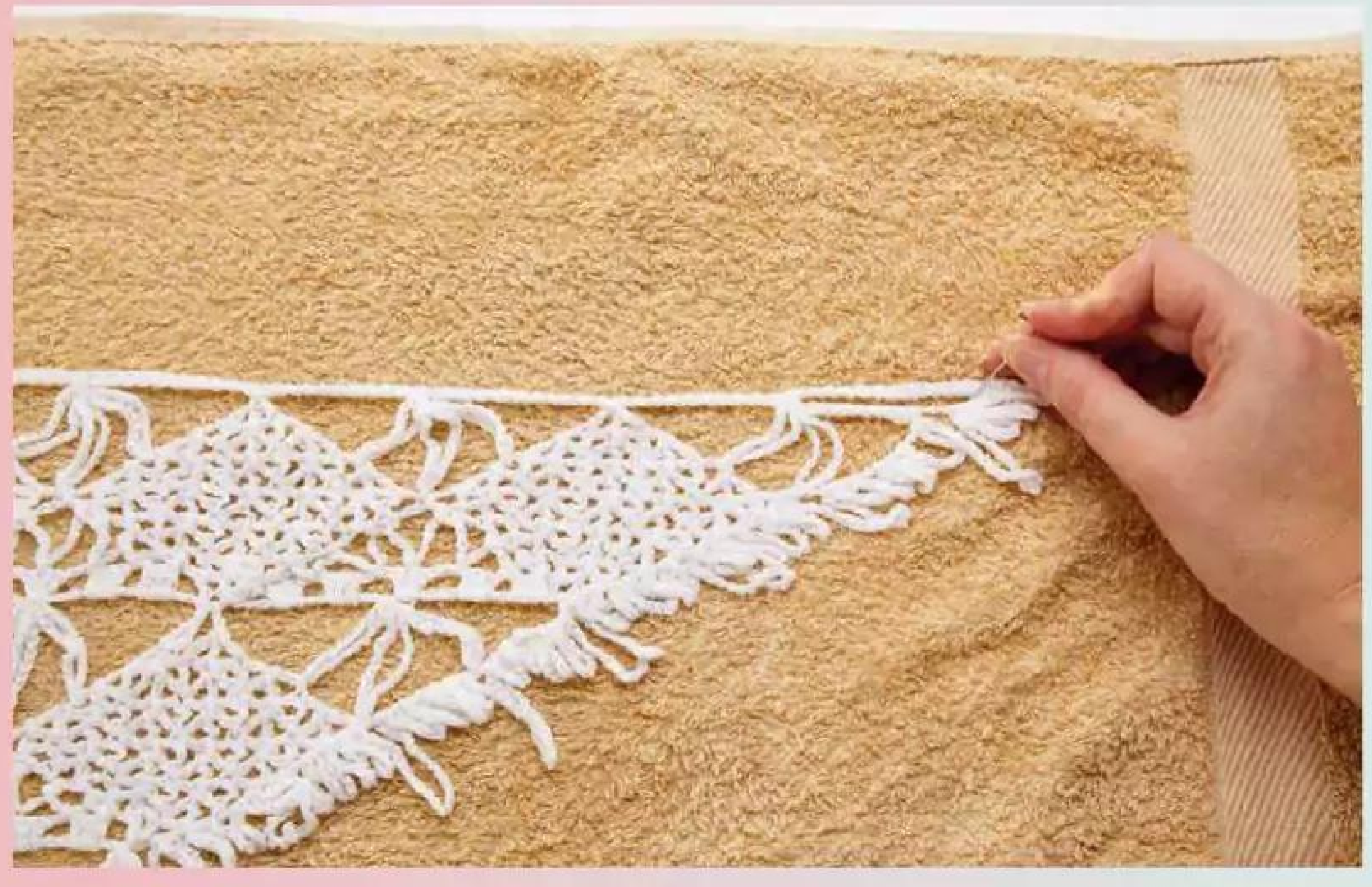
See below for our guide to pinning, which will help to ensure that you achieve the finished size that's promised in your pattern. Pinning each piece of fabric out to the right size is vital when making garments, to make sure all your pieces will fit together and fit you!

If your crochet item uses a lacy pattern or a lot of open chain spaces, pinning it out will also help the stitches to lie flat and even, instead of being bunched up, as well as achieving the right finished size. You can also buy blocking wires, good for shawls.

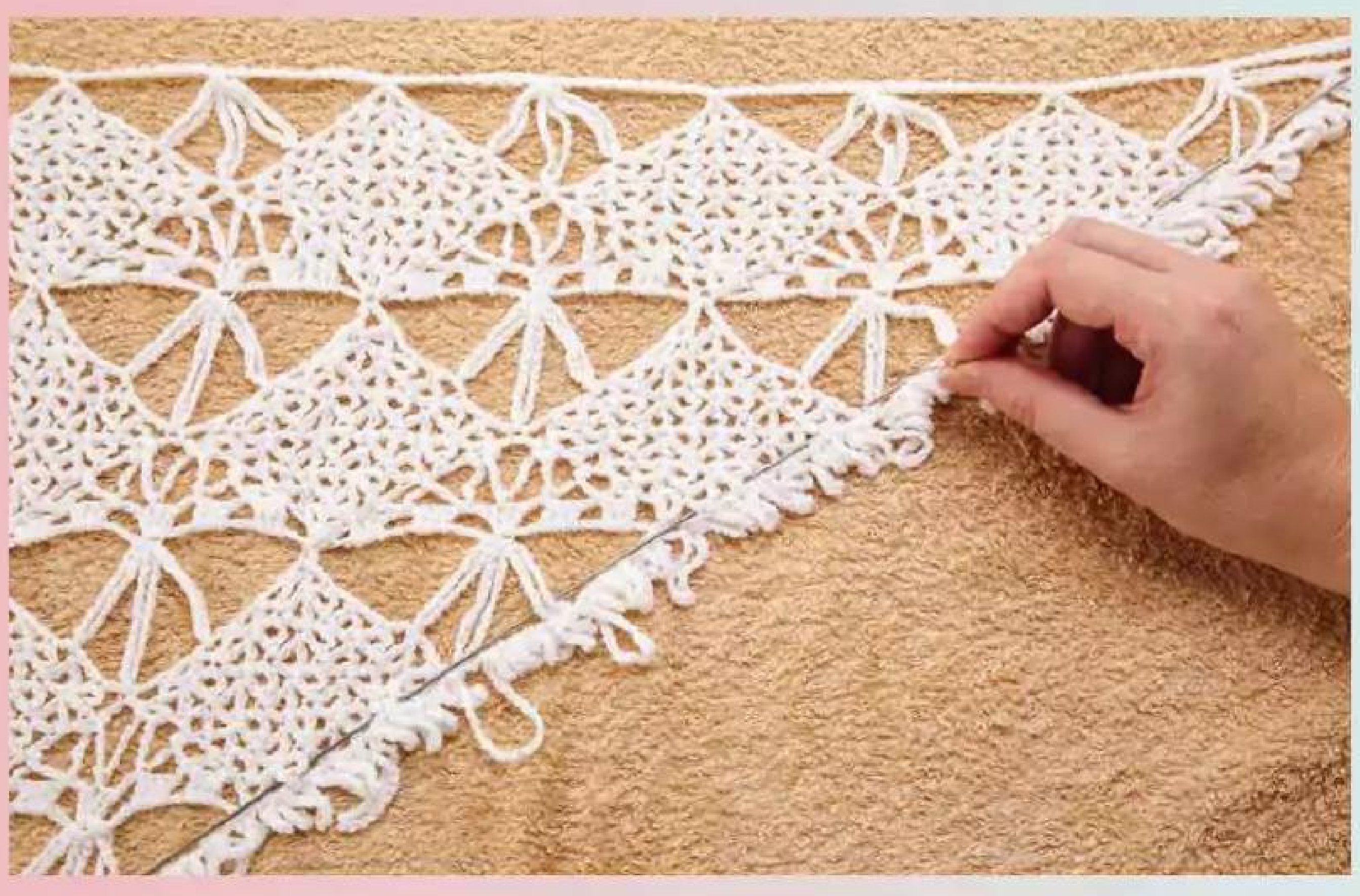
If your item is a hat or another 3D shape, pinning won't be as effective. If you've made a hat, try placing a plate inside in place of the pinning part of the blocking process. Or try blowing up a balloon inside your 3D item to help it hold its shape.



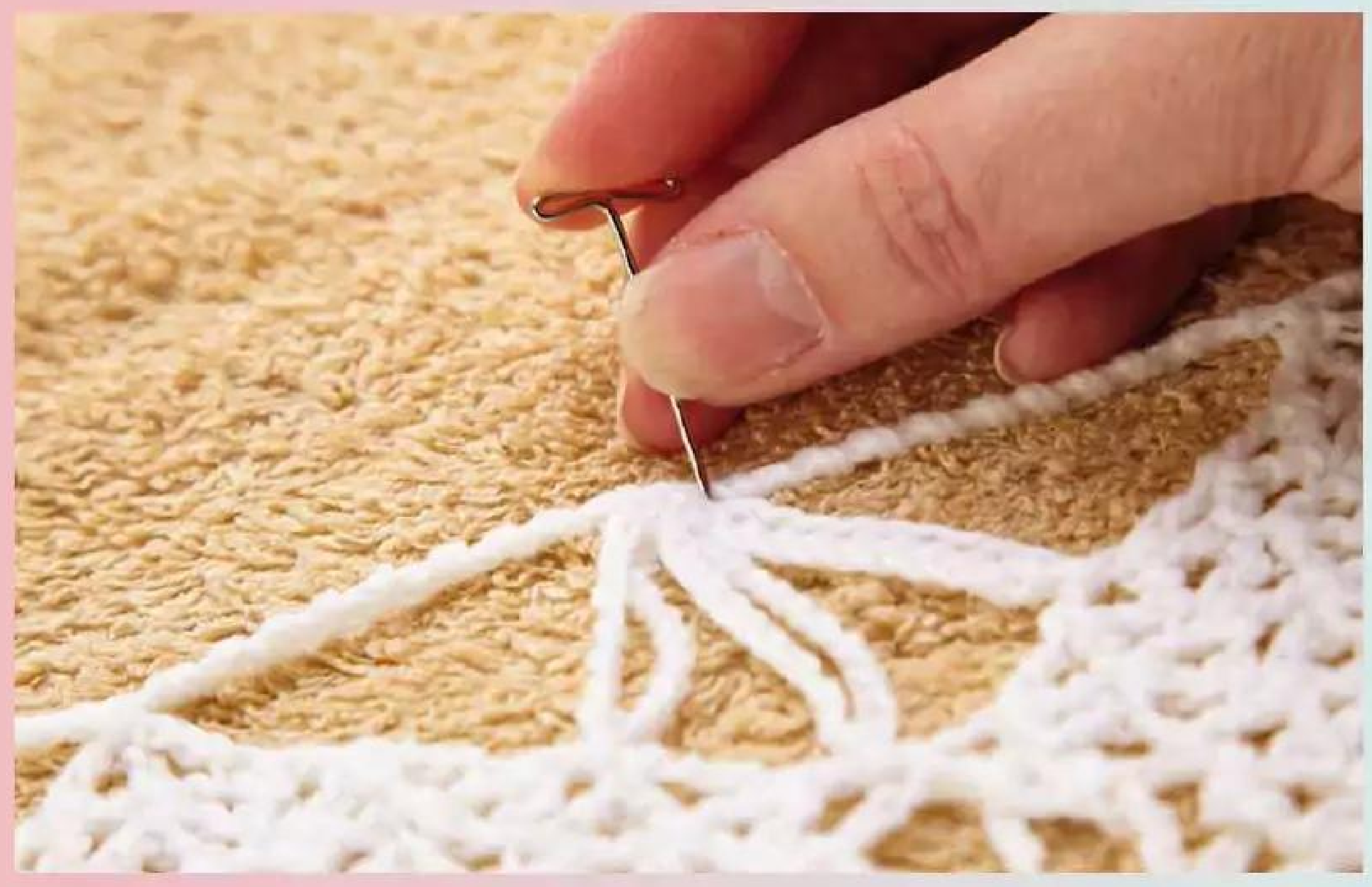
1 Lay the item out flat on a soft, smooth surface (try a board or folded blanket covered with towels). Check the finished measurements given in your pattern (check the schematic for garments).



2 Starting at the corners, pin out the item with long, rust-proof pins or blocking wires to match those measurements. Move evenly around the edges, placing pins inside the last row/round of stitches (not in actual stitches, or you risk distorting them).



3 Ease the shape out slowly. Don't pull too tight with your first few pins – you can go back and reposition them if needed. Continue until the item is the size stated in the pattern. Keep the edges straight.



4 When inserting pins, make sure the body of the pin will rest against a whole stitch or chain. Insert the point towards the centre of the fabric, away from the edge. This way, the force of holding the fabric out will be balanced by the pin facing inwards.

SEWING UP

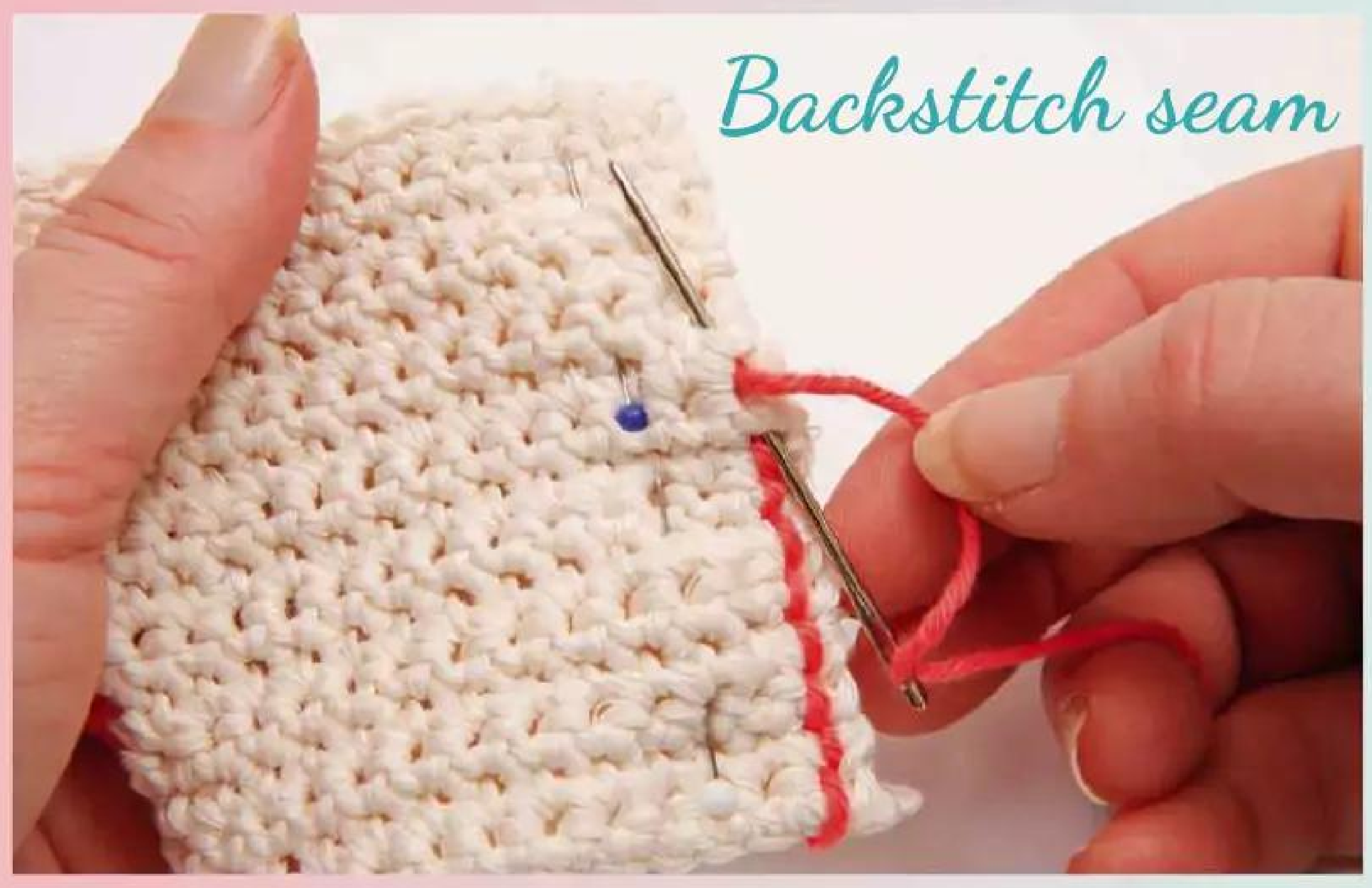
Sewing up your crochet pieces is the most exciting part!

After blocking, your item will be ready for the most exciting bit – sewing up! This will turn a few oddly shaped pieces into an item you can use.

There are many ways to seam your makes, and we've covered four of the most popular methods below. If you need to pin together your pieces, match up each row beforehand to make sewing easier and more accurate.

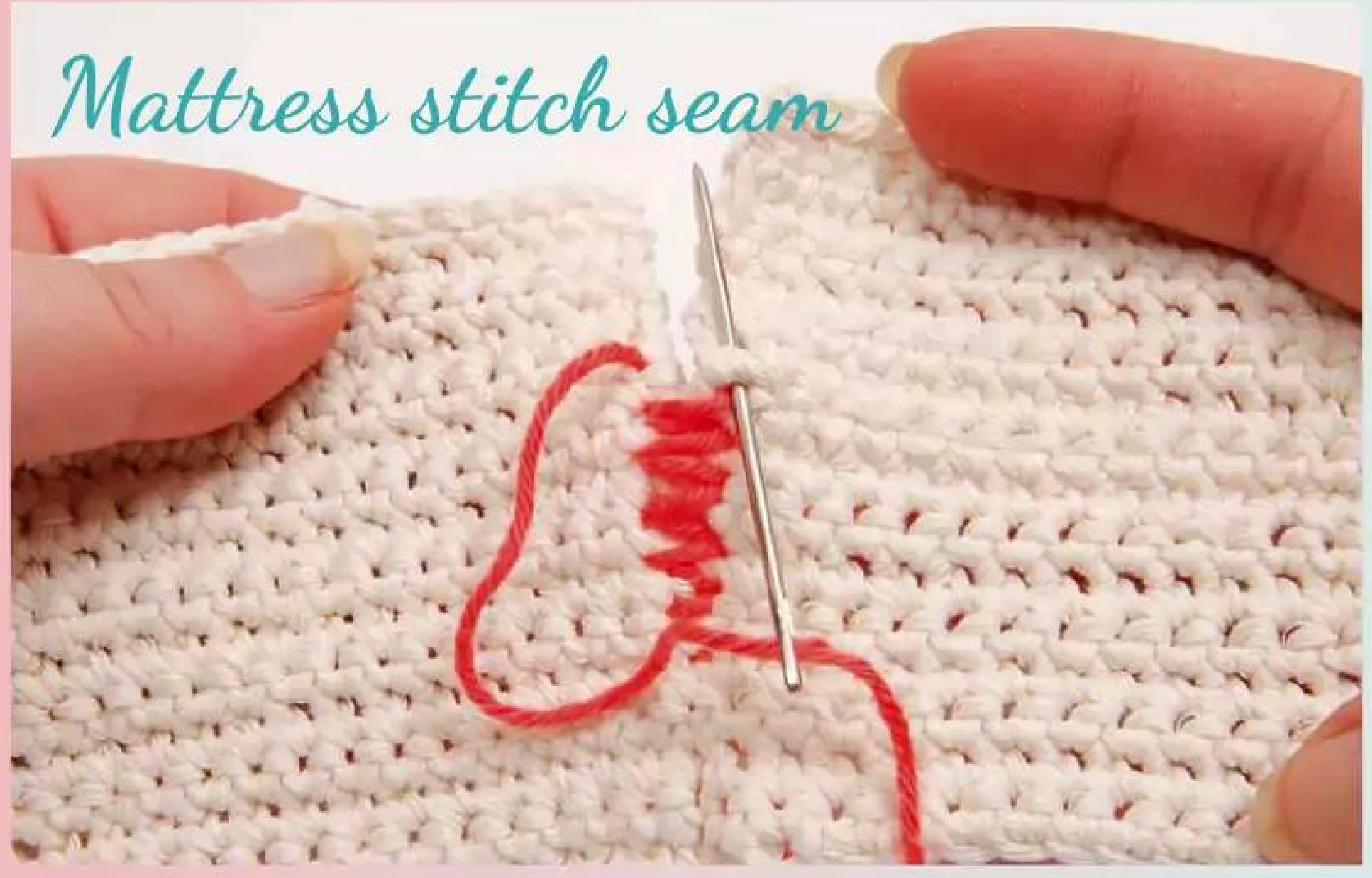
For three of these methods, you need a large-eye, blunt tapestry needle and matching yarn, about 50cm (20in) long (we've used coloured yarn below so you can see the seam). Thread yarn onto the needle and secure it at the back of the fabric. Bring the needle up to the edge of the fabric, where you wish to start the seam. Then proceed as instructed below. With these needle seams, always work one stitch in from the edge of the fabric.

Backstitch seam



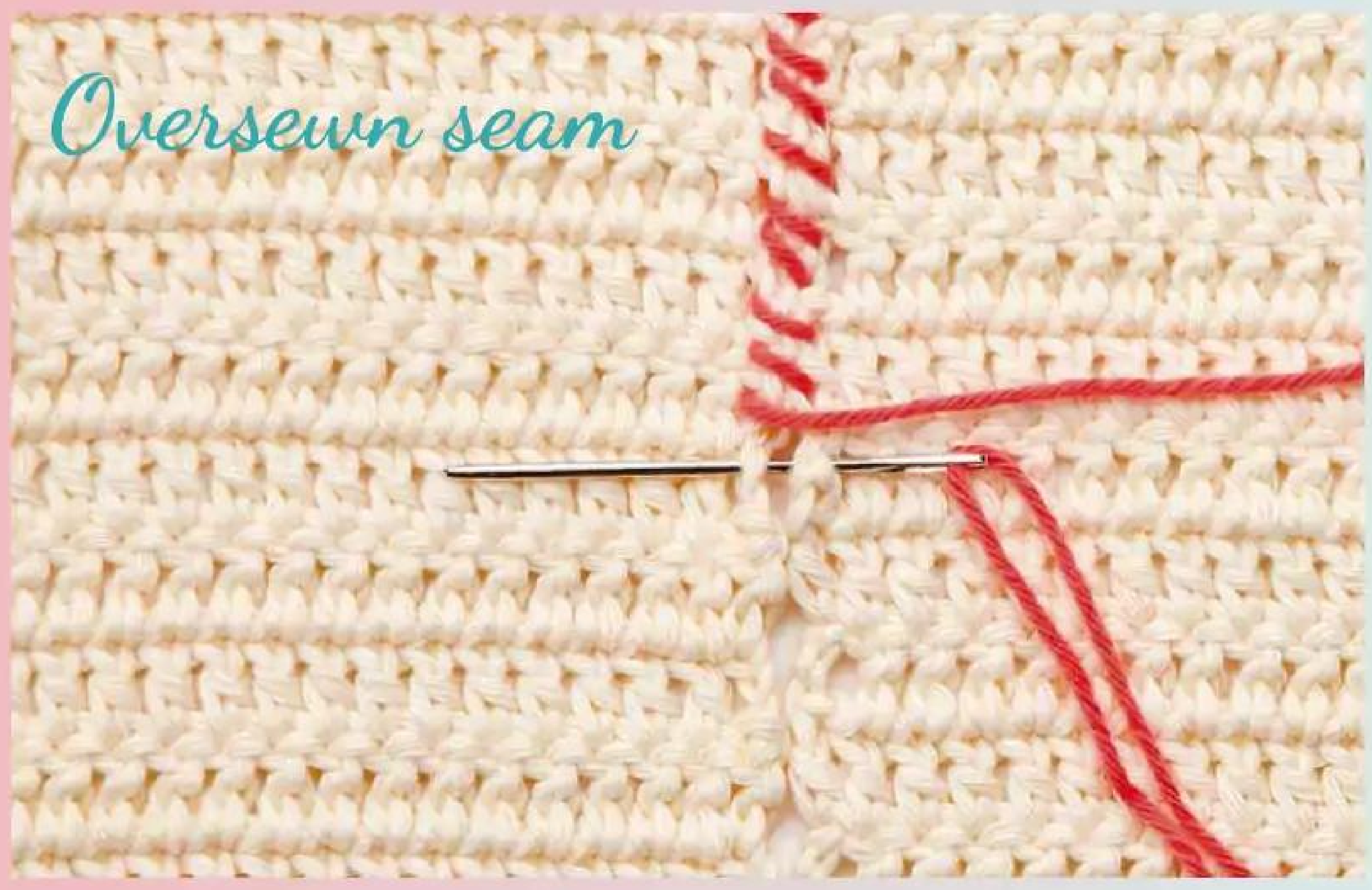
Pin your two pieces right sides together. Working from right to left, through both layers, bring needle up in the hole above the 2nd stitch. Take needle back down in the hole above the 1st stitch and then up again in the hole above the 3rd stitch. Continue in this way along the edge.

Mattress stitch seam



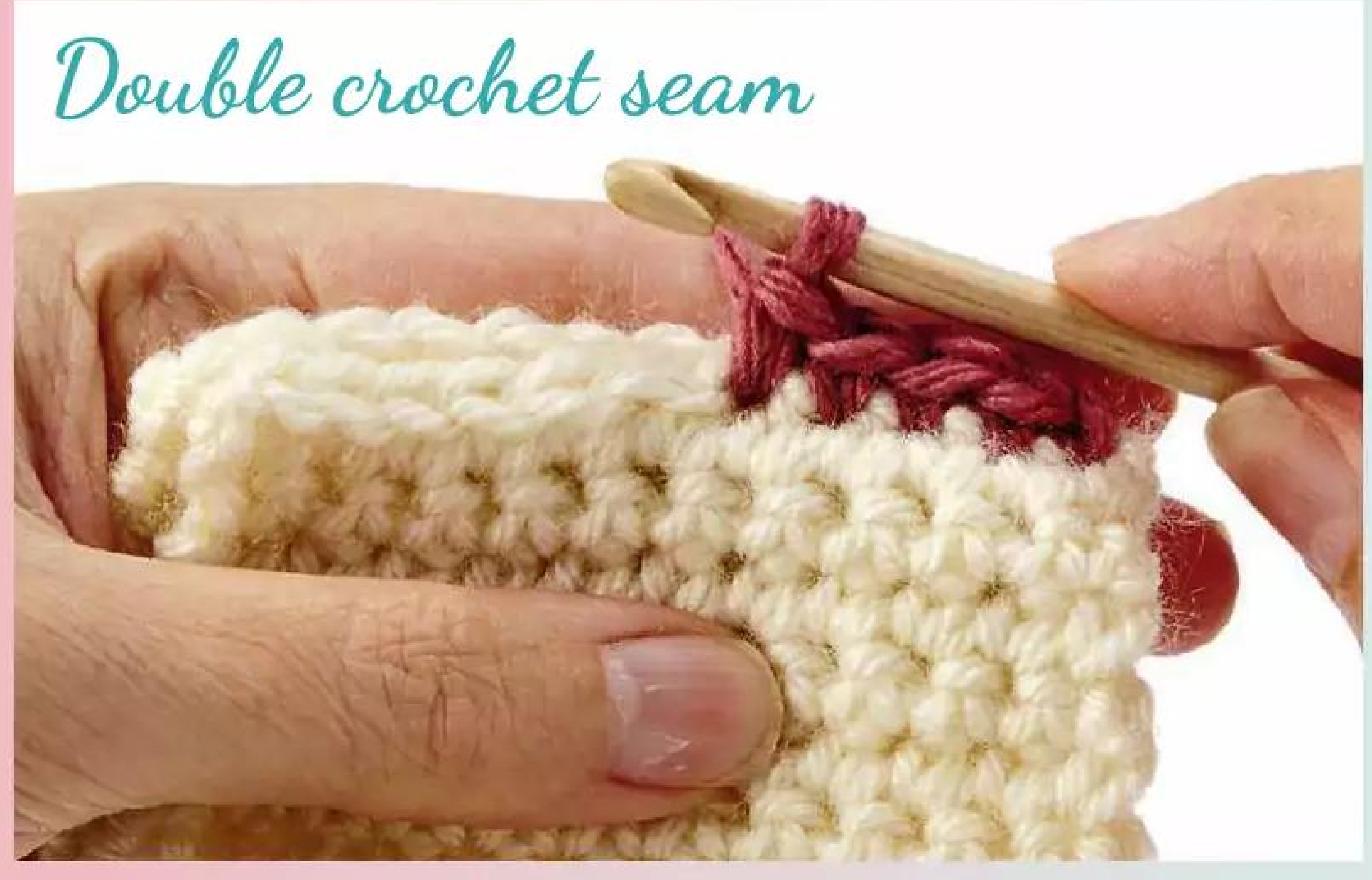
Lay your pieces out flat, RS up. Start with needle at front lower-left of right piece, above 1st stitch. *Insert needle into front of left piece, above 1st stitch; bring it out above 2nd stitch. Rep from * but on right piece. Rep from * on left piece with 2nd and 3rd stitches. Cont as set. Pull yarn tight every few sts for a near-invisible seam.

Oversewn seam



Also known as ladder stitch, pin the two pieces right sides together. *Insert the needle from right to left, taking the yarn over the two seams. Repeat from *. Leave a gap of around 0.5cm between your stitches.

Double crochet seam



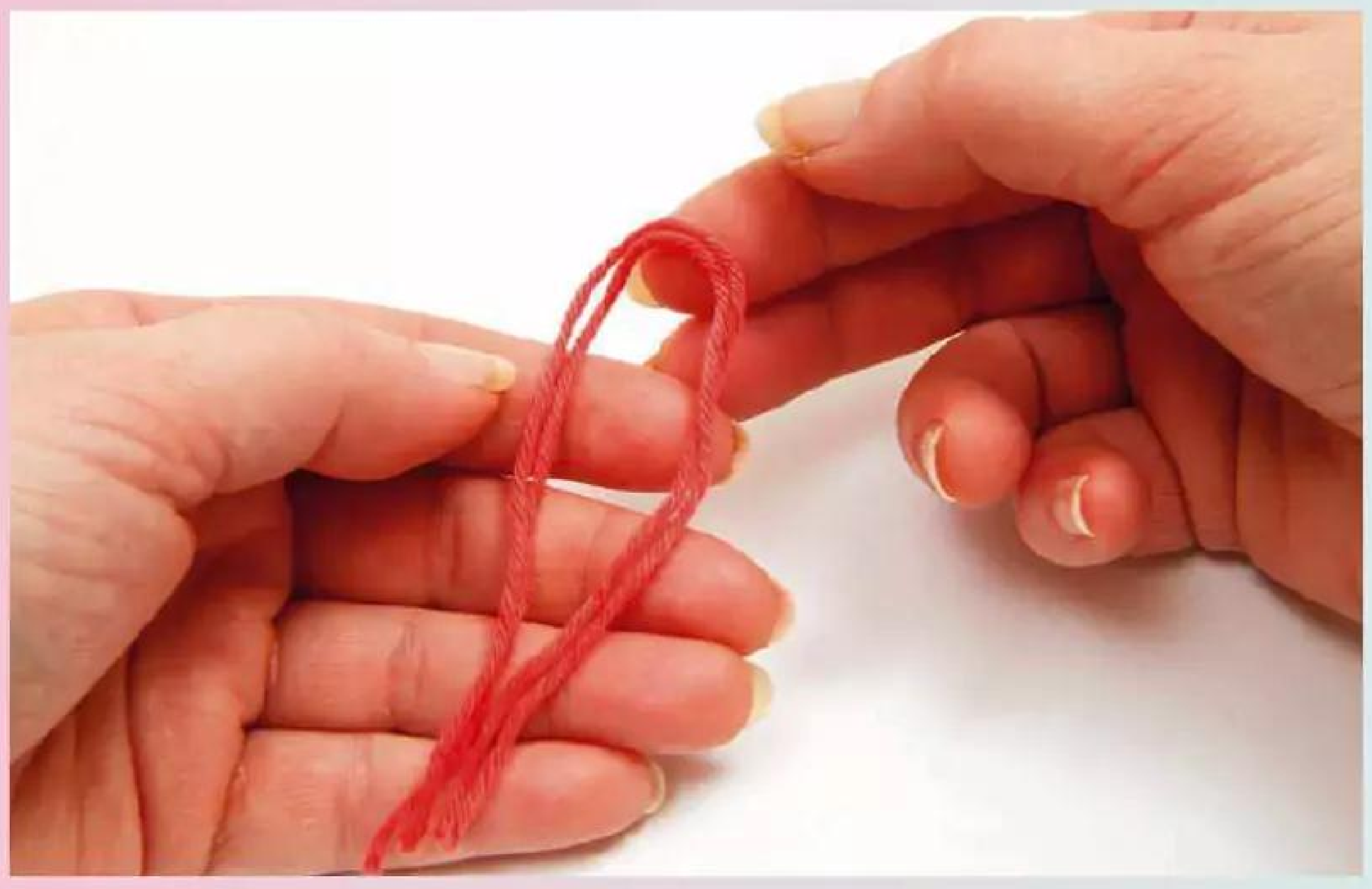
Place your pieces WS together for a decorative seam (or RS together for a less visible seam). Join yarn to corner and ch1 (t-ch for dc). Work double crochet sts along the edge, inserting the hook into both layers. Alternatively, work slip sts.

ADD FRINGING

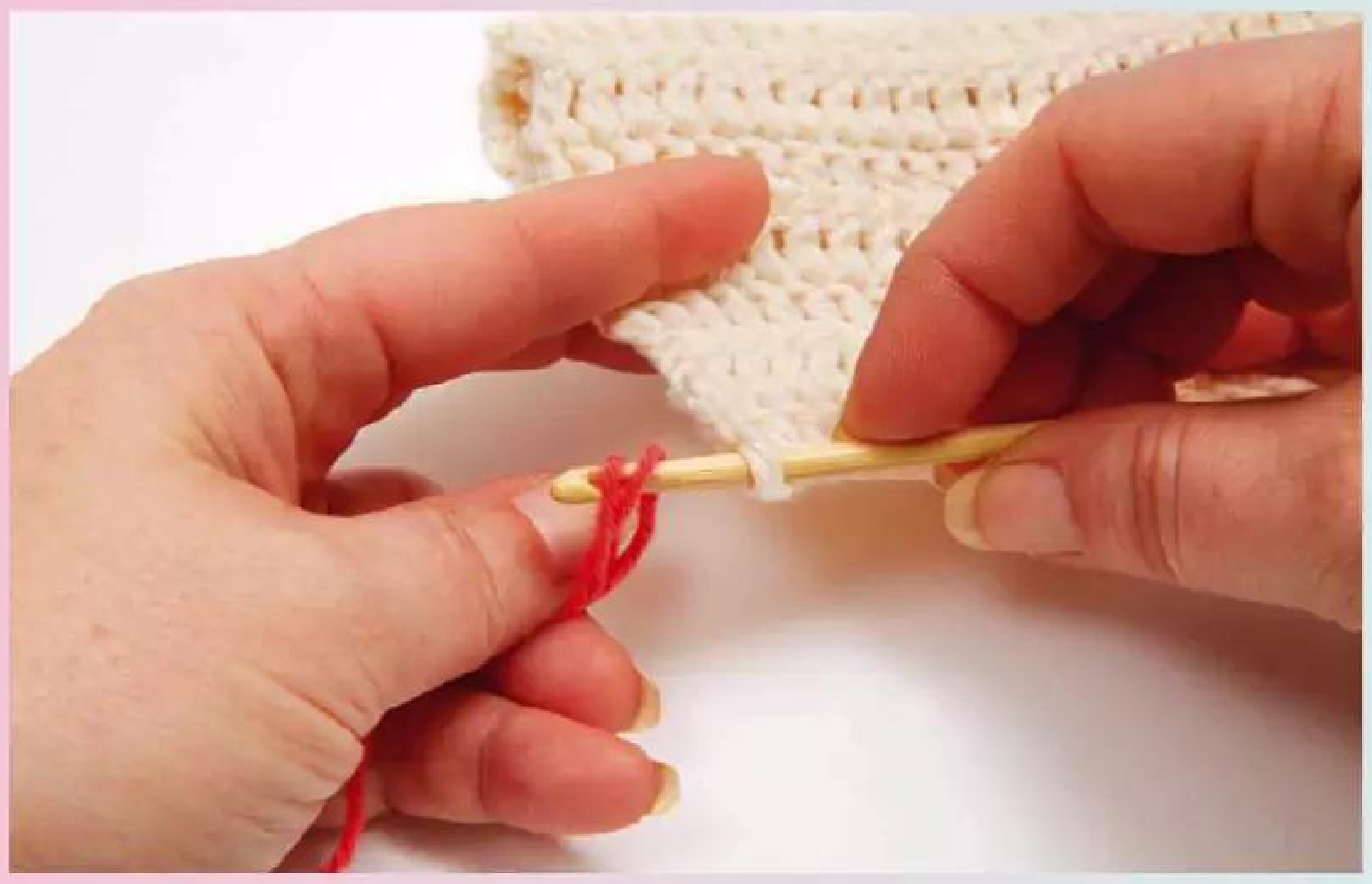
Give scarves and blankets a striking finish with this easy technique

Feathery fringing can help to turn a plain blanket into a beloved bedtime accessory, or reinvent a boring old garment as a striking fashion statement. It's also a really quick and easy way to edge a lacy shawl or give a scarf an attractive finish, or for simply adding a new lease of life to last year's winter warmer! As with other finishing touches, such as pompoms or tassels, a fringe can be made using leftover yarn from your project. Or you can raid your stash and use a contrasting yarn colour so that the fringing really makes a statement. A multicolour fringe is a great way to use up short lengths of yarn from your stash that you can't use anywhere else.

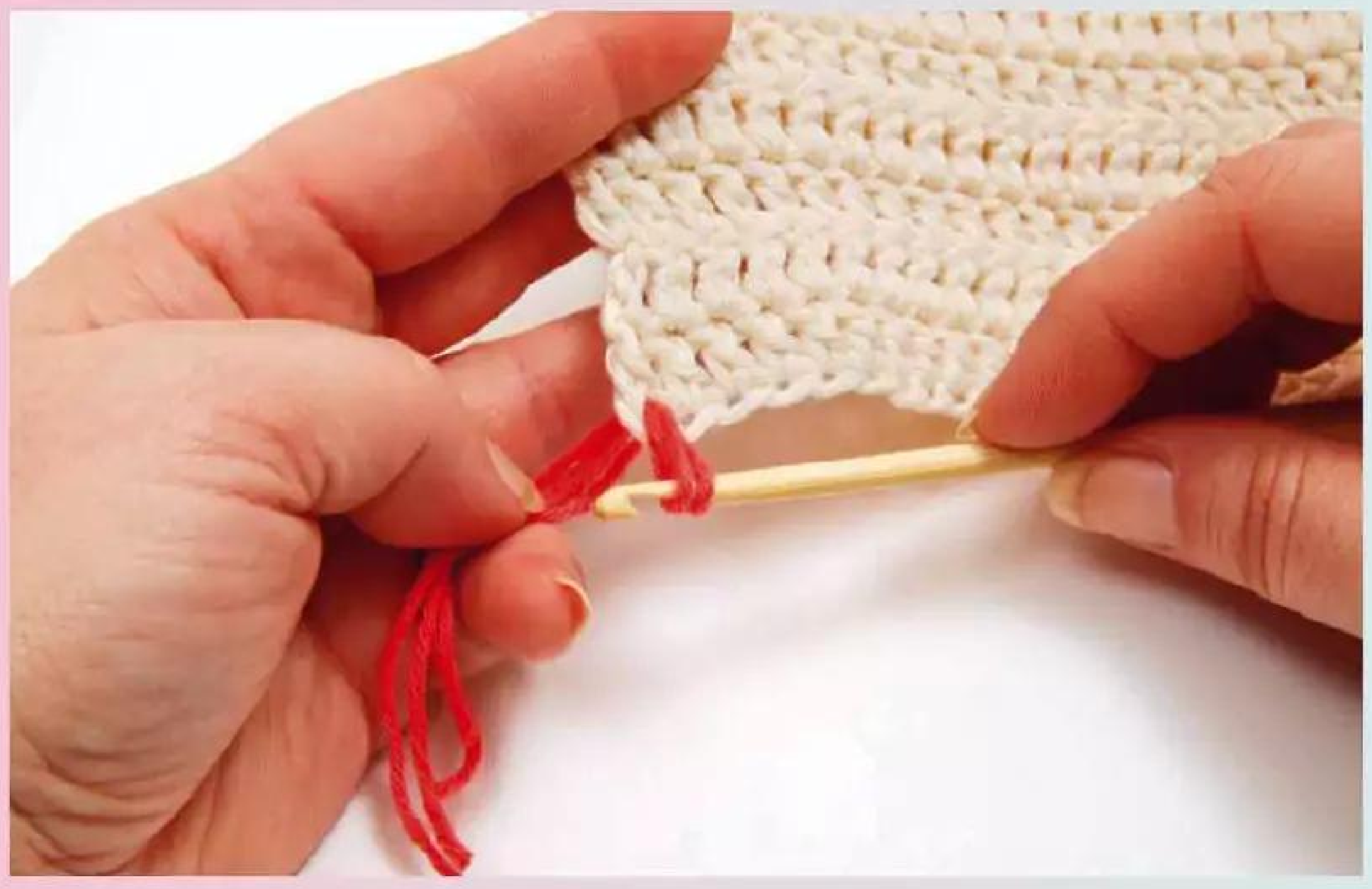
And of course, the best thing about fringing is that it's so easy – there's no tricky sewing required. You don't even need to tie any knots – you can employ your trusty crochet hook to speed up the process!



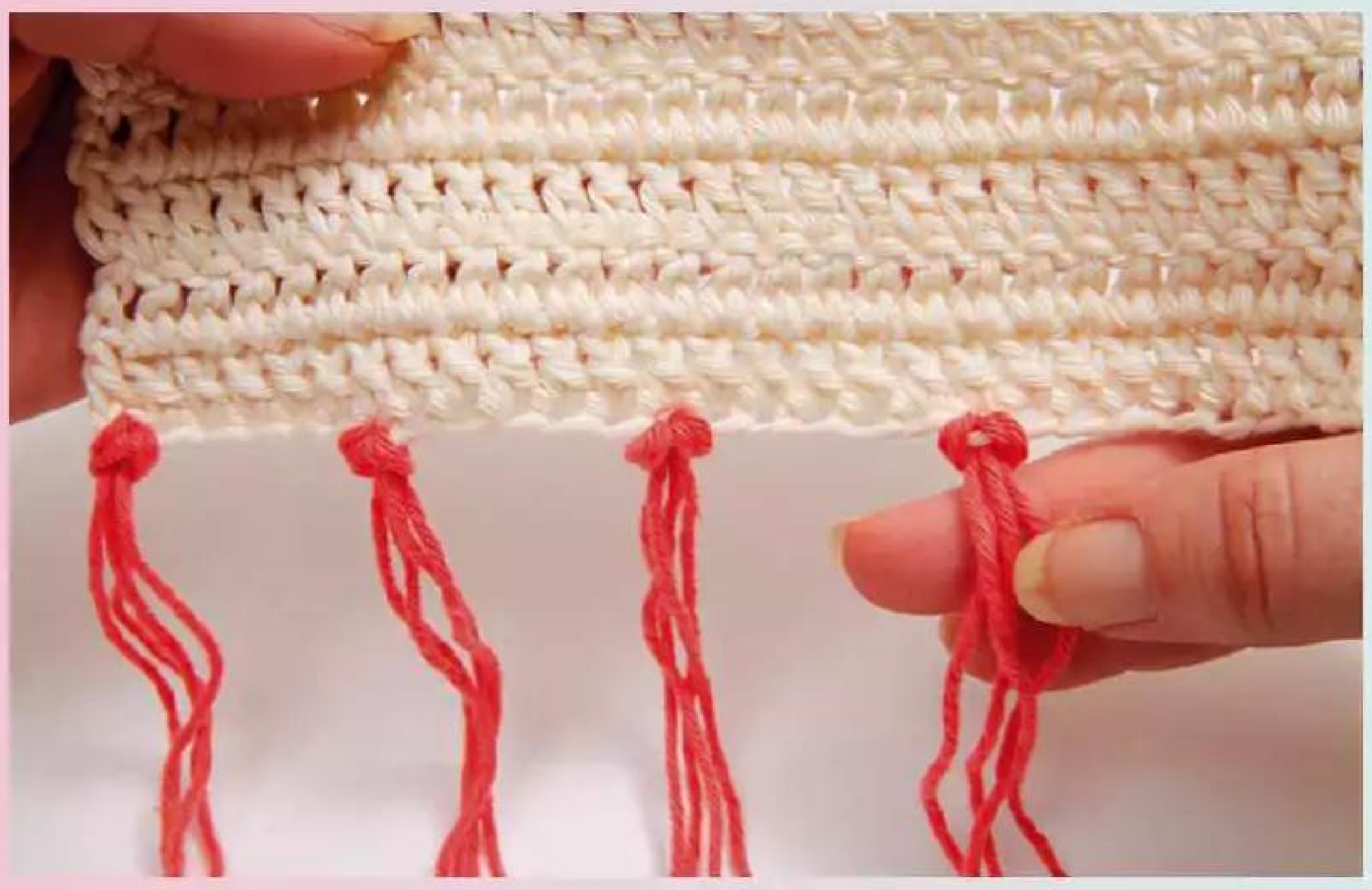
1 Cut two or three lengths of yarn that are twice the length you'd like the fringe to be, then hold them together at one end and fold them in half.



2 Push your crochet hook through the edge of your fabric, where you'd like the first piece of fringing to go. Loop the lengths of yarn over the hook and pull them back through the fabric.



3 Pull the fringing yarn to make a loop next to the crochet hook. Pass the ends of the fringing yarn through this loop and pull tight to secure them. There's no need to knot them – they should stay tight as they are.



4 Repeat Steps 1-3 at evenly spaced intervals along the edge of your fabric, as close together or far apart as you wish. Trim any uneven lengths of yarn to give a nice neat finish.

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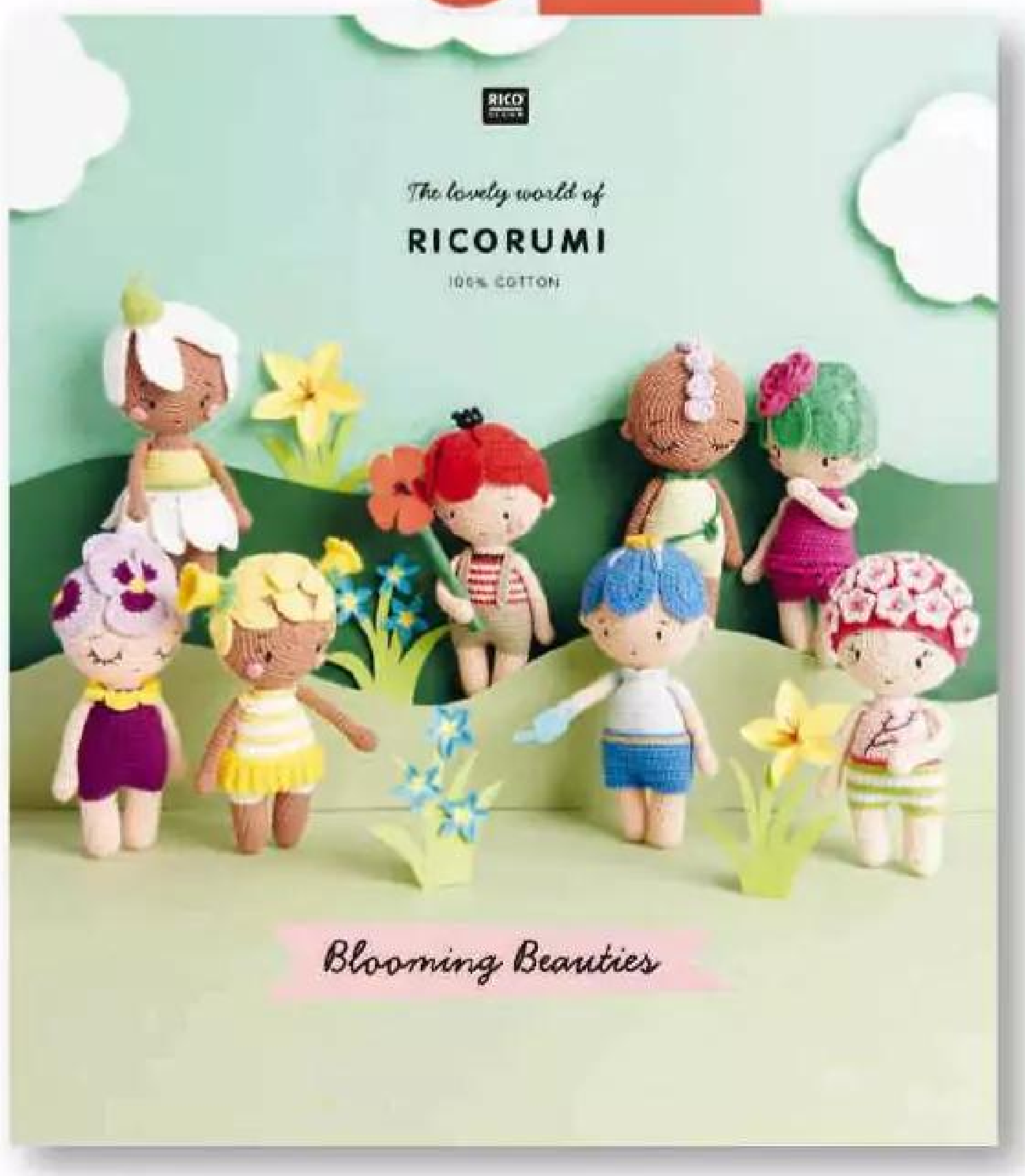

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With the floral-inspired designs from our new booklet Ricorumi Blooming Beauties, your home will blossom with an all year round radiant beauty. A variety of floral accents give the characters their individual look featuring beautiful snowdrops, daffodils, forget-me-nots, poppies and more. Our new pattern booklet will be available in store from the middle of January 2025. The pansy, daffodil and snowdrop are available as separate crochet kits. Get your booklet in January and get prepared for a very special spring!

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